

Border crossings seized by federal troops as Belgrade hits back against two defiant republics

Yugoslav tanks roll into Slovenia

By TIM JUDAH IN LJUBLJANA AND MICHAEL BINYON

YUGOSLAV tanks moved into Slovenia and Croatia yesterday as the two republics struggled to assert their independence. Fighting broke out in Slovenia as federal troops were ordered to seize control of international border crossings.

A Yugoslav officer died in a gun battle in the eastern town of Ormoz, and two airmen were killed when their army helicopter was shot down over Ljubljana. Four border checkpoints were captured.

The troops moved in barely 31 hours after the two republics declared their independence. The commander of the 5th army division, General Konrad Kolesik, pledged that all resistance would be broken. He told the Slovene prime minister, Lojze Peterle, that his orders would be executed unconditionally. "We shall be proceeding according to the rules of combat."

For the past two days, fighter jets have swooped low over Ljubljana and the city has been sealed off by Slovene military police units bracing for attack. The republic's president, Milan Kucan, yesterday condemned "forceful and ruthless action" by the Yugoslav army and ordered military units to use force to protect the nation's sovereignty.

Reports reaching Ljubljana spoke of "helicopter assaults" as the Yugoslav army began to head for the border checkpoints. One helicopter was said to have been shot down by territorial defence forces and to have crashed into the street near the university. The pilot and co-pilot were killed.

In Ormoz, a Yugoslav officer was killed and two tanks were disabled in a clash with Slovene units. Four people were injured. Jelko Kacin, the information minister, said that several army vehicles had been destroyed or disabled in accidents or because of technical problems. One tank that broke down in Moste, a village north of the capital, was attacked and looted by local people.

In other villages near by, cars and trucks were crushed as tanks broke through road blocks in their drive to reach the airport, which closed on Wednesday. The airport was surrounded, but remained in Slovene hands, and vehicles had been packed on the runways to prevent landings by the Yugoslav air force.

In Croatia, television showed film of federal tanks moving through the city of Osijek, about 90 miles from Zagreb, driving panic-stricken residents before them. International reaction to the troop movements was swift. Austria and Italy called for a meeting of the Vienna-based conflict prevention centre of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European parliament called for an immediate meeting of CSCE foreign ministers, as did Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the German foreign minister, at a meeting of the Western European Union.

The Nato council said it was greatly concerned, and European Community leaders will discuss the situation at their Luxembourg summit today. They may send a political mission to Belgrade. In spite of the beginning of hostilities, the Slovene authorities last night renewed their offer to negotiate with the federal government, which has also called for talks.

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Firm stand: a Yugoslav army tank guarding the road to Ljubljana airport at Brnik yesterday. The airport is now blocked by the Yugoslav army, which is taking over border crossings

British tourists told to fly home

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of British tourists are to be flown home from resorts in Yugoslavia after the foreign office advised yesterday that all non-essential travel to the country be deferred.

Most of the estimated 15,000 British holidaymakers now in the country are expected to be brought home over the next few days, although some will be offered the chance of remaining if they wish. No further charter flights to the country will take place and those who have booked will be offered their money back, an alternative holiday or the chance of waiting until the country returns to normal.

Yugotours, the biggest package tour operator to the country with 11,000 British holidaymakers now in resorts, said that their customers would be given the option of staying or flying back. Those in Slovenia would be given the option of moving to another resort in an unaffected area. As a specialist operator, Yugotours cannot offer alternative holidays to its customers, but will offer refunds.



For other tour operators, however, the block on further flights was put into immediate effect yesterday afternoon. The main resorts affected are Bled, Kranjska Gora and Portoroz. One plane load of 75 Thomson Holiday passengers from Manchester and Birmingham were given the news that their holiday would be cut short within minutes of landing at Dubrovnik.

They were taken to their hotel for one night only and will be flown back today. They will be given the option of their money back or an alternative holiday.

Another aircraft with 100
Continued on page 20, col 6

Summit leaders sidestep the federal obstacle

By GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG AND ROBIN OAKLEY IN LONDON

ATTEMPTS to introduce the explosive word "federalism" into the draft EC treaty on political and monetary union were quietly dropped yesterday as John Major and other EC leaders headed for today's Luxembourg summit.

Mr Major, giving his response to Margaret Thatcher's warnings about Britain's future in the EC, told the Tory women's conference in London: "There are only three options for our future in Europe. We can leave the community - that option is barely credible. Or we can sit on the sidelines, treat Europe as a spectator sport - and then, in the end, inevitably be forced to follow where others lead."

The third option was "to put ourselves at the very heart of the community, initiate policies, form alliances, debate wholeheartedly, fight for the future Europe we want to see. That will not be a federal superstate but a Europe of ever closer union between governments and peoples."

Jacques Delors, the Commission president, said in his pre-summit statement that he would not object strongly if the word "federal" was taken out of the text. He had looked up federalism in an English dictionary and was reassured to find that the word meant a decentralised political system. Luxembourg also backed down over its insistence on a reference to federalism in the draft treaty. Jacques Santer, the Luxembourg prime minister who will chair the European Council, made plain he was no longer pressing for the word "federal" to be included in the treaty.

Interviewed on BBC radio's *The World at One*, Mr Santer said it was important to agree on goals and purposes, the internal market, economic and monetary union and some political union, with the extension of a common foreign policy. Whether that was covered by the words "political union" or "federal" was for him "very subsidiary". British sources last night welcomed the apparent softening but pointed out there were still other countries with strong views on federalism.

At a meeting in Luxembourg of the foreign ministers of the Western European Union, Britain and France yesterday defused the potentially explosive issue of defence in the EC just hours before the start of the summit. A policy statement was devised which pleased both

Lamont hits at pay rises

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

NORMAN Lamont, the chancellor, yesterday added his voice to the prime minister's condemnation of big pay rises for the heads of newly privatised industry.

He criticised what one Labour MP branded a "fat-cat greed race" on the day Wessex Water announced an 80 per cent rise for its chairman, bringing his annual pay to £100,000, and as speculation grew that the pay of PowerGen's chief has almost trebled in a over 12 months.

Major to attack truancy

By ROBIN OAKLEY
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major yesterday promised a crackdown on truancy by tightening up on school registers. He told the Conservative women's conference in London that he was not prepared to tolerate the levels of absence from school prevalent in some inner cities, where one child in four was a regular truant.

The education department is expected to publish regulations requiring schools to register authorised and unauthorised absences of children. From August next year the schools will have to publish the information.

Mr Major's speech appeared to be seeking to draw a line under the era of Thatcherism. He said the only "ism" he believed was Conservatism. Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, described the speech as trivial and puerile.

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

INTERVIEW



Kate Mair meets Terry Venables, whose emblems will surely be a car phone and a football, waiting for a call from the boy Gazza Page 12

P IS FOR FEDERAL



Philip Howard says the federalism argument is about principle, pride, pique and petty-mindedness. For starters Page 14

OPINION



Janet Daley says the trial of the men who freed George Blake illuminates the border between idealism and arrogance Page 14

INSIDE

Late question

The Commons is to investigate MPs' working hours following pressure from backbenchers who have young families. A select committee will also look at the procedures of the House. Page 4
Sitting comfortably? Page 12

Spiritual comfort

A proposal to allow alcohol to be sold in Methodist residential colleges and institutions is to be examined by the church's divisions. Page 2

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Soggy June joins records

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE torrential rains that have been lashing England and Wales over recent weeks, turning cricket pitches into duck ponds and ruining the opening of Wimbledon, could make June 1991... the 51st wettest since records began in 1727 in the reign of George II.

After weathermen had laddled Wednesday night's downpour into their computer model, the month seemed destined to equal the 56th wettest in the league table of soggy Junes.

As the weather delayed the start of play at Wimbledon on the fourth day, unusual methods had to be taken to decide other sporting events. Hertfordshire, a minor counties team, beat Derbyshire in the NatWest trophy after five bowlers from each side bowled at unguarded stumps. Surrey beat Oxfordshire after a

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"Bowl-out" wins, pages 38, 40



Whiter than white: Andre Agassi surprised the Wimbledon crowds by abandoning his traditional colourful clothing for white. Simon Barnes, page 39

Kuwait offers a sanctuary to London zoo

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN KUWAIT CITY

MOUSSA al-Khasshi, director of Kuwait's zoo, has offered to take animals from Regent's Park if the London zoo is forced to close by shortage of funds next month. "We will be receiving a new budget for restocking and rebuilding in July," Mr al-Khasshi, who was trained in Britain, said. "But if we can help London zoo by taking any of their animals, we will be pleased to do so. We have all the food and water to provide them a good home and most cages are already repaired."

David Jones, the general director of London zoo, said last week that £2 million was needed from the British government by July 9 if closure of the

zoo in September was to be avoided. Mr al-Khasshi, seated in his newly refurbished office in a block wrecked by Iraqi officers after using it as their mess, believes that the reopening of the zoo, scheduled for the autumn, will be a potent symbol that Kuwait is recovering from its seven months of brutal occupation.

He confirmed that starving Iraqi troops had eaten his elands and buffaloes, but remained unsure about the claim that they had also devoured the snakes. "They were our enemies, but we must try to tell the truth."

Mr al-Khasshi issued an appeal to international zoos to help to replace the species lost in the conflict. These included all the zoo's 326 birds, 43 out

of 55 different types of mammal and all 40 reptiles bar three tortoises returned after the war by a local who had been looking after them.

Dalal, an Indian elephant, is one of the few animals left alive in the war-ravaged zoo, albeit with an Iraqi bullet still lodged deep in her left shoulder. It was found by an American army mine detector and later treated by a British vet.

"Like the three lions, the two hippos, the giraffe and the bears, she was one of the few species those Iraqis could neither eat nor steal," said Mr al-Khasshi. The inhumanity of the Iraqis towards the animals in what was one of the best-run zoos in the Middle East has caught the public's

imagination in the West. "We get telephone calls every day from Britain and other places asking how the animals are," Mr al-Khasshi said. "I have to say that just 5 per cent survived. When we get up to 40 per cent, we will open for visitors again."

A spokesman at London zoo commented last night: "Our staff have helped the Kuwait authorities since the end of the war and we know of the facilities they have to offer, but it is too early to say if there are any animals which would be available for transfer to Kuwait." It would be three years before the animals would have to be dispersed if Regent's Park operations were forced to begin running down this year.

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Duke's housing enquiry urges end to mortgage tax relief

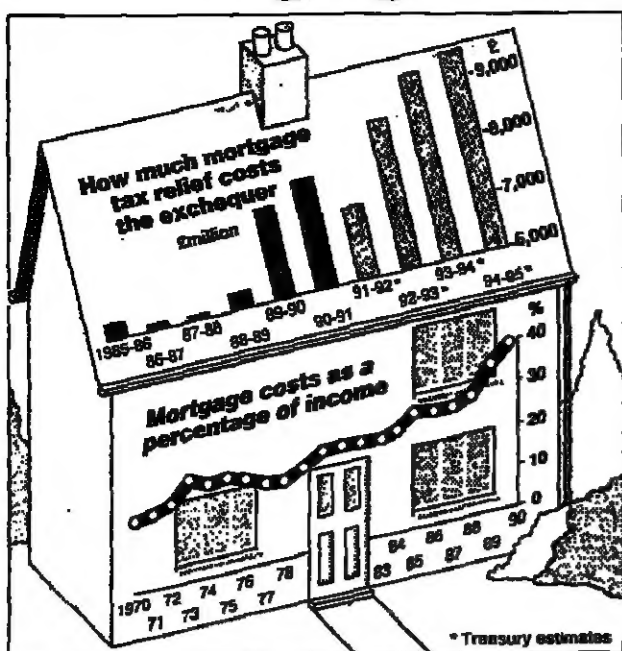
By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN
PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

A FUNDAMENTAL reform of housing finance, including the phasing out of mortgage interest tax relief and the introduction of a needs-related housing allowance, is proposed in the second report by the Duke of Edinburgh's *Inquiry into British Housing*, published today.

The package of measures, produced after the most comprehensive survey of British housing in the past 30 years and costing more than £2 million, aims to tackle the issues of homelessness and bad housing conditions, to standardise housing subsidies that now favour home owners, and to encourage the growth of the rented sector.

The recommendations would mean extra public expenditure of about £2.5 billion a year, but the report argues that this should be set against savings from the end of mortgage interest tax relief, amounting to £9 billion a year in ten years' time.

In a foreword to the report, which follows one in 1985, the Duke of Edinburgh says that although most people in Britain are well-housed, a minority live in very poor conditions or are homeless. "Clearly, all is not well with housing in Britain and I am certain that everyone would like to see a system of housing



finance and provision that is simple, fair, effective and economically sustainable," he said.

The recommendations are similar to the package of reforms proposed by the 1985 enquiry, which were seen as an "unpleasant medicine to cure Britain's housing ills", according to Richard Best, secretary to the enquiry and director of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, which funded the research. "Perhaps it is not surprising that it was not swallowed whole. We hope

this new medicine will prove more palatable."

A key message from the new report is that the substantial resources needed are already in the housing finance system: what is needed is to distribute them more effectively.

The main recommendations are:
□ the phased withdrawal of mortgage interest tax relief;
□ conversion of all personal housing subsidies, especially housing benefit, into a needs-related housing allowance;
□ the introduction of a

nationalwide rent-setting system based on the capital values of property;
□ tax incentives for private landlords;
□ use of higher rental income from council housing and a larger share of receipts from sales to fund new building and modernisation;

□ DSS to be responsible for the payment of all housing benefit, so that council tenants' rents are not used to pay the housing benefit of their poorer neighbours;
□ council housing departments to become legally free-standing, able to borrow freely from the private sector;
□ an intermediate agency be established to help housing associations raise over £1 billion a year in private finance.

The report suggests that the phased withdrawal of mortgage relief should take place over a maximum of ten years, in line with expected falls in interest rates. Less affluent owners would be entitled to a new housing allowance.

A new needs-related housing allowance would be available to home owners, as well as to tenants, on the basis of need, and includes measures for easing the poverty trap.

Inquiry into British Housing: Second report June 1991 (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Homestead, 40 Water End, York YO3 6LP; £6.50)



Toasting change: Methodist student leaders Jonathan Fentiman and David Massey in a Bolton pub yesterday

Methodist view on total abstinence 'dying death of a thousand cups'

The church with a long tradition of fighting the demon drink believes that such an attitude may now be small beer. Ruth Gledhill reports on its leaders' latest thoughts

THE word in the Methodist Church is that the flag of temperance is being lowered to half-mast. A mood shift is taking place in a church which for 250 years has often adopted an almost monastic stance on drink, gambling, dress and dance.

The Methodist Conference, meeting in Bolton, decided yesterday to ask its divisions to examine a proposal to allow alcohol to be sold in Methodist residential colleges and institutions.

Methodist ministers have been seen this week drinking alcohol and smoking in restaurants, bars and hotels in Greater Manchester, though as one minister said some have a "furious look". "That sense of guilt is still there," one minister said.

When challenged, ministers insist they are standing by the example of their founder John Wesley. As Dr Leslie Griffiths, superintendent of the West London Mission and a frequent contributor to Radio 4's *Thought for the Day*, said: "Wesley enjoyed his beer, but advocated sobriety. He said we should be wise in all things."

Total abstinence has never been a requirement for the church's membership or ministry, but in the last century Methodists were in the fore of the Band of Hope and signing the pledge.

Dr Griffiths said: "Abstinence was the thing. It

spread from drink to gambling, dancing and smoking." In the mid-Seventies, the church changed its rules to allow ministers to have alcohol in their homes. One minister in Garlick's, the Methodist who's who, lists his hobby as winemaking.

Dr Griffiths said: "Abstinence is dying a death of a thousand cups but I hope there will always be a proper place for it in the right circumstances."

A proposal to relax rules which forbid bars in Methodist residential premises, such as colleges, was narrowly defeated yesterday and referred back to the church divisions for further discussion. But many believe it is only a matter of time before the rule is relaxed.

The Rev Peter Stephens, professor of church history at Aberdeen university, said that the election of Methodism's first woman president and second black vice-president had put it in the vanguard of changes in British Christian life. "There are shifts in Methodism. The church is trying to see things in proportion."

He abstains himself and is an advocate of tradition. "At the age of seven I signed a pledge of total abstinence and I have never departed from it, except once in Greece when I was unable to refuse wine because they did not understand my explanation."

"I nearly changed when I was coaching a rugby team but I decided they needed one person who abstained to set an example."

Many Methodists argue that prohibition does not work. The Rev Ronald Crewe, a magistrate from Great Yarmouth, said: "Christians have to help people with the problems of living." Alcoholism came in people, not in bottles, he said.

The Rev Brian Duckworth, general secretary of the division of social responsibility, said: "These changes are related to Methodism's place in the community, particularly at the beginning of a decade of evangelism. Although this is often greeted with laughter, in actual fact it gets in the way of what the whole thing is about, which is the promotion of faith and a good way of life."

Nowhere is this mood shift better witnessed than at the conference in Bolton, where ministers have this week danced to a South African beat played by a visiting Bolivian Methodist band in a church theatre, and where representatives were invited to a Methodist night-club at Manchester Central Hall.

John Wesley criticised himself for being addicted to "light behaviour". Although he was not abstinent, he detested drunkenness. He told a drunkard in 1745: "Are you a man? God made you a man; but you make yourself a beast ... you cause the fire of anger, or malice, or lust, to burn seven times hotter than before."

The needs and demands of young people in particular that are forcing the Methodist Church to re-assess its position on many issues. One of the most passionate and powerful conference speeches yesterday was delivered by Lara Povey, aged 20, who urged modern styles of worship.

She said: "Time and time again you step into a Methodist church and there are very few people between the ages of 14 and 30. What would Jesus think if he walked into one such church? If something is not done soon, there may very well not be any Methodist Church."

Vote of thanks to the chair

By ALAN HAMILTON

THAT the members of the Duke of Edinburgh's enquiry into British housing, draws from a wide political spectrum and often with conflicting views, were able to produce a unanimous report was due largely to the duke himself. A noted banger-together of heads, the chairman resolved from the outset that the report should speak with one voice.

He was invited to chair the enquiry in 1985 in his role as patron of the National Federation of Housing Associations. He faced criticism then from the *Daily Express* for taking

the crown into a political arena, and for being unlikely to have first-hand knowledge of mortgage interest relief or related subjects.

Royal involvement in housing has, however, a respectable pedigree. The then Prince of Wales, later Edward VII, was a prominent member of the 1885 royal commission on housing, whose centenary the present enquiry's first report celebrated and whose recommendations led to the creation of council housing under the Housing for the Working Classes Act of 1890. The duke

chaired many of the meetings which drew up the first report six years ago, but for the second his involvement has been somewhat less as there have been fewer meetings.

Richard Best, secretary to the enquiry, yesterday defended the duke's role as chairman. "He has been entirely neutral and impartial. He brings everyone together, makes us think things through and adds his own dose of common sense. But he has no part in drawing up the detailed recommendations," he said.

When the first report was published, the duke said that there had been a political dimension in his chairmanship. "If we had entered the discussion on the basis that we would not discuss anything which was politically sensitive, or could be, there wouldn't have been any report at all," he said at the time, adding that the enquiry had asked deliberately for no evidence from the government or from any political party.

13% house price rise forecast

A FORECAST of an average price increase in the housing market of 13 per cent in 1991-92 and 6.5 per cent a year for the next five years compared with a rise of 3.75 per cent a year in the retail price index, is reported by Charteredhouse, the merchant and investment banking group, in its annual study of the market published yesterday (Christopher Warman writes).

The study, by James Morrell, former director of the Henley Centre for Forecasting, said that Britain may have seen the last of the great credit "booms and busts".

It added that membership of the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) implied a more restrained monetary policy. "Direct controls may be applied should house prices rise too rapidly. It will be necessary to limit the growth in lending for house purchase to 5.5 per cent a year to lower the inflation rate to 3 per cent."

Ford plant to close for five weeks after sales slump

By RONALD FAUX

PRODUCTION at the Ford plant at Halewood on Merseyside will halt for five weeks from the end of next month because of the slump in car sales.

The company said yesterday that the 6,500 assembly line workers, who have been operating a four-day week this year, would not lose pay because of the additional cuts. After the plant closes for the

annual three-week holiday on July 29 it will reopen on August 19 but for the first two weeks workers will be paid to carry out training and plant maintenance. Car production will resume on September 3 for three days a week. The company plans to return to a four-day week from October if sales improve.

A spokesman said yesterday that sales were the lowest for 19 years. In May last year the company sold 48,000 vehicles. This May the figure was 30,800. Halewood, he said, was at a disadvantage because the plant did not have export orders for the Escort model produced there, whereas 60 per cent of Dagenham production was sold abroad.

"Halewood is entirely dependent on the UK market out of which the bottom is rapidly falling," he said, adding that the company had no plans to declare redundancies although the position was under constant review.

Measures to slim down the Halewood workforce have been under way since 1979 but have so far been achieved by voluntary redundancy or natural wastage.

Four left-wing Nalco shop stewards were voted out of office in Liverpool yesterday after 300 social service members rejected their headline activities in organising strikes that affect council services to children and the elderly, and lost the union public support.

The meeting gave overwhelming support to a no confidence resolution against the senior stewards Tony Nolan, Lynn Gallagher, Steve McCarthy and Aiden Politt.

Graham Burgess, chairman of the Liverpool Nalco branch, said that the four dismissed officials had failed to consult members on a wide range of issues. "We were finally sick and tired of their antics," he said.

Leaders of the EETPU electricians' union are likely to challenge in court a move yesterday to expel the union from a cross-union umbrella body for the engineering industry (Philip Bassett writes).

The decision by the annual conference of the 13-union Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) to expel the inter-union wrangling over the EETPU which led to the electricians' expulsion from the Trades Union Congress three years ago.

Island police fear for missing young couple

By DAVID YOUNG

CAR hire and hotel records on Lanzarote are being checked by Spanish police after the disappearance a week ago of a young English couple.

Tony Hook, a bricklayer, and his fiancée Lorraine Keavrell, a florist, collected their baggage after landing on the island last Thursday, but never arrived at the holiday apartment they had booked. Their families, from Chesham, Buckinghamshire, are hoping the couple made a last-minute change of plan after meeting someone and are staying in a private villa.

Lorraine's mother, Norma, said: "We've heard nothing. The Spanish police are now checking through all the hotel records over there. There is no record of them being in hospital or any of the places they

would have gone to if there had been an accident. We're just hoping they've gone into some private villa with somebody they met. It is worrying, because Lorraine would normally ring to let us know if she was doing something like that."

Lorraine, aged 21, and Tony, aged 23, who have been courting for three years, became engaged last October and were planning to marry as soon as they had found somewhere to live. They were carrying about £600 in cash and travellers cheques, none of which has been cashed.

Brian Key, the British honorary consul in Lanzarote, said Spanish police were very concerned. Pictures of the two young people are being circulated around the island.



Keavrell: her mother has not heard anything



Hook: carrying £600 when they disappeared



Sense of direction: rain failed to deter the crowds attending the fair



Big crowds flock to careers fair

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 8,000 people attended the first day of Directions, the careers and education fair sponsored by *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* at Olympia, west London, yesterday.

The exhibition, which continues until 4pm tomorrow, was opened by Andrew Knight, executive chairman of News International. Among the visitors yesterday was Thor Degelmann, a vice president of Eurodisney, which is one of the 200 exhibitors.

Today's programme includes presentations on careers in the media, retailing, public relations and working in Europe, as well as guidance on higher education. The opening hours are 10am-5pm.

Nudism goes top of the agenda

By ALICE THOMSON

THE debate on fox hunting has been dropped from the National Trust's annual meeting this year as the latest attack comes from quite another quarter: nudism.

Nudists are urging the trust to safeguard their heritage at Studland Bay, near Poole, Dorset, one of the country's most popular beaches, which they have been using since 1938. In recent years, however, they have had to share their pleasures with the trust and three varieties of snake.

The trust bought the beach in 1982 as an area of outstanding beauty and because it contained some of the rarest British snakes. The nudists do not mind sharing their beach with the snakes - "They just have to be careful where they sit down," a trust spokesman said - but they are worried that the trust might squeeze them out. A sign tells the nudists where they may bathe but recently the trust have been moving the markers.

Suzanne Piper, of the Central Council for British Nudism, has tabled a motion for the next annual meeting of the trust in November asking it to safeguard nudists at Studland Bay and to increase nudist facilities to other trust sites. "We want to continue as we are and we must have reassurance from the National Trust," Mrs Piper said.

Two years ago a trust member tabled a motion against the nudists at Studland Bay which failed. He complained because his 13-year-old daughter had been forced to queue for an ice cream beside a naked man.

Lord Chorley, chairman of the trust, said: "Council members have visited the beach and were quite satisfied with the nudists' behaviour. It's National Trust policy to live and let live and they will not be moved." He said, however, it was unlikely that members of the trust would want nudists' facilities increased.

Post Office action to be abandoned

Post Office counter staff seem likely to abandon their industrial action after union negotiators agreed to recommend a repackaged pay offer.

Post Office managers and leaders of the Union of Communication Workers agreed a deal in secret talks earlier this week. The talks followed largely ineffective strikes. Support for a four-day national strike over the 7 per cent pay offer was low, and eventually the union had to switch subsequent strikes away from counter staff in main post offices to administrative staff in wholesaling centres who send out supplies.

The Post Office said that the new offer would still cost only 7 per cent but Alan Tuffin, union general secretary, said it was worth 7.8 per cent and was a "clear improvement".

Baby murder

Anthony Pinhorn, aged 28, of Hertsford, Surrey, who broke his three-week-old daughter's ribs and fractured her skull and took her to the doctor only when she was probably already dead, was sentenced at the central criminal court yesterday to life imprisonment for murder and cruelty. His wife Trudy, aged 26, who was also convicted of cruelty, was remanded in custody for a report.

Press victory

Two newspaper publishers yesterday won their High Court fight to prove they should not have been excluded from hearing the evidence in a case involving a vicar and two women parishioners. Lord Justice Mann sitting with Mr Justice Hadden allowed an application by News Group Newspapers and Express Newspapers against the Chancellor of Chichester consistory court.

Times and *Sunday Times* v. Chichester Consistory Court, [1991] 1 All ER 385, [1991] 1 WLR 1200. Appeal allowed. Costs £10,000. Appeal allowed. Costs £10,000. Appeal allowed. Costs £10,000. Appeal allowed. Costs £10,000.

THE
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THE
PLACE.
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Harrods
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

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THERE IS ONLY ONE SALE.

Panic story 'm
Gulf se
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beginning
for 'first'
computer

Panic story 'not made up'

Gulf secrets officer was ill, says RAF psychiatrist

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE WING commander charged with negligence after the theft of Gulf war plans from his car was suffering from a temporary psychiatric illness and incapacitating panic attacks when he left them unattended, a court martial was told yesterday.

Sidney Brandon, civil consultant in psychiatry to the RAF, said that Wing Commander David Farquhar had suffered a panic attack which would "score at the top of the scale" as a result of jet lag, sleep deprivation, exhaustion and the effects of sleeping drugs which he had been taking.

Professor Brandon, of Leicester university, told the court martial at RAF Uxbridge that he thought Tamasopan sleeping tablets, of which Wing Cdr Farquhar had taken two or three at 3am the previous day, may have been the most important factor.

He said that although the dose was at the top of normal prescriptions, Tamasopan was known to have dangerous side effects and the effects could last 12 or 14 hours after ingestion. The drug was used in medicine to induce amnesia and one of its characteristics was to interfere with memory.

Earlier the wing commander's wife, Cherry Farquhar, said that she had seen her husband working himself into a state of total exhaustion in his job as staff officer to Air Chief Marshall Patrick Hine, the joint commander-in-chief of British forces in the Gulf.

She said that she saw her husband's personality transformed and his usual good humour replaced by confusion, exhaustion and displays of irritability and frustration.

Professor Brandon said that the evidence was that in the period before losing the plans the wing commander had a significant problem with increasingly impaired efficiency, changes in his sense of humour, extremely laboured thinking, a liability to break down in tears in private and out-of-body experiences.

The professor said he believed that on the day when

Wing Cdr Farquhar ordered his driver to stop their car so that he could go into a car showroom, he had woken up in a confused state, experiencing the first symptoms of a worsening panic attack which could be ascribed to his exhaustion and the effects of the drugs he had been taking without medical supervision.

Professor Brandon said that the symptoms amounted to a psychiatric disorder known as acute organic brain syndrome. Its effect would have been to impair the wing commander's capacity for judgment and rational action. The symptoms might have included palpitations, racing of the pulse, thumping of the heart, pains in the chest, excessive shallow breathing, faintness, dizziness, nausea, sickness, sweating and a need to empty the bowels or bladder.

Those who suffered such attacks, the professor said, might be as many as one in 10 of the population. But they would usually describe the experience as a "sense of impending death, or going out of their mind". The result would be an imperative desire to get away from whatever situation they found themselves in, and the professor said this was entirely consistent with the wing commander's action in leaving the car.

The professor told Group Captain John Weedon, conducting the prosecution: "The description of panic the wing commander gave was so comprehensive that he could not have made it up. There is an internal consistency in his account which makes it extremely unlikely this was a story concocted to mislead the court."

He said that the story which the wing commander told Special Branch detectives four days after losing the plans last December, when he said that he stopped the car so that he could look at cars in the showroom, might have been an attempt to rationalise actions which he could not himself understand.

The case continues today.



On their bikes: PCs Roy Wotten and Nick Walker, and WPC Diane Stewart, geared for action. A safety chain is provided but not a blue light

Police cyclists swoop on thieves in the night

POLICE in Bedfordshire have bought a fleet of mountain bikes to patrol not only rural areas but also urban streets. The force is believed to be the first to use them to cover regular beats and other forces are showing interest.

Bedfordshire has bought six of the 21-speed bikes, costing almost £200 each, and riders are being equipped with specially designed safety helmets with a small peak and the word

"police" front and back. A safety chain is also provided. During a three-month test around Leighton Buzzard, officers made a dozen arrests for vehicle crimes, including three men found stealing cars. In almost every case the offenders were taken by surprise as police swept down on them silently.

PC Nick Walker, who organised the experiment, said: "Officers saw the benefit of riding at night. They get an adrenalin buzz that

Leighton Buzzard car thieves watch out! The PCs of the mountain bike branch are about, reports Stewart Tandler

they are going to catch someone because they are so quiet and are more alert than they would be in a car."

when Mr Walker, a beat officer covering two villages, suggested looking at bikes for patrolling. He recommended the force try mountain bikes rather than dust off the traditional bikes. The new models were greeted with enthusiasm.

Mr Walker said that as well as being quiet, the bikes were robust and fast, ideal for covering urban beats of three square miles. The handlebars have been raised for greater comfort, but the

bikes will not be equipped with sirens or bells. Police using the bikes respond to 999 calls in their areas in the same way as police cars and compete well with vehicles in their speed of response. If support is needed they can radio for help.

Mr Walker said the experiment showed that the bikes allowed patrolling officers to retain a high degree of contact with the community, bridging the gap between foot patrol and car.

NHS chief calls for more senior women

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH service managers should be penalised financially if they fail to attract more women to senior posts, said a government official.

Eric Caines, NHS personnel manager, said yesterday that quotas should be set for the proportion of women in senior positions in the service to redress the imbalance between the sexes. If managers failed to reach the targets, their performance-related pay could be docked and career advancement impeded, he said.

Although 78 per cent of the

NHS labour force is women, only one of the 14 regional general managers is female and only 5 per cent of the 195 district general managers. Even at senior hospital management level, only 17.6 per cent of the posts are filled by women. Mr Caines said that this proportion should be doubled to between 30 and 40 per cent.

Speaking in Bournemouth at the annual conference of the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, Mr Caines said that once women entered middle management they stopped progressing. Just over 40 per cent of middle managers were women.

Positive action was needed to "pull them through" into more senior jobs. "I would make it a requirement of managers at all levels, backed by central directive, that in three years there should be 30 to 40 per cent, or whatever the figure might be, of women at these levels," he said. Soft options such as career breaks and creches were not enough to attract women into the service.

He called for greater local pay flexibility underlining his aim to see national pay bargaining and the Whitley Council system abolished. Women tended to be in the lowest paid jobs.

The present system of "on call" and premium payments for laboratory and nursing staff were the "biggest racket of restrictive practices" he had ever come across. If these premiums, generally paid for working unsocial hours, were abolished, basic pay could be increased.

Earlier, conference delegates heard from Dr Bryan Christopher, a GP fundholder, of East Grinstead, Sussex, that fund holders were being courted by private hospitals offering special deals to attract patients.

Sellafield discharges affecting Scots isles

By OUR SCIENCE EDITOR

PEOPLE in the Western Isles of Scotland have five times normal levels of radioactive caesium in their bodies, in part because of discharges reaching them from the nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield in Cumbria.

A study published in today's issue of the *British Medical Journal* suggests that most of the extra caesium comes from local milk and lamb - from livestock which have eaten coastal grasses contaminated with Sellafield waste discharged into the sea. The amounts are very small, within safety limits, but indicate how discharges into the sea can return to land a considerable distance away and enter the human food chain, the authors say.

The findings come from a comparison of caesium levels in blood in 413 patients from the Western Isles, Glasgow, and other parts of Scotland. The measurements were made between 1979 and 1986.

Dr Christopher Isles and colleagues say that the presence of the isotope caesium-134 as well as the more plentiful caesium-137 points the finger at Sellafield. Reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel produces caesium-134, weapons testing does not.

The actual amounts of radioactivity detected, at 13.7 microsieverts per year for the average islander, are a very small fraction of total radiation from all natural sources, estimated at 2,500 microsieverts a year in Britain.

Radioactive material was found in vegetables on an allotment after a contaminated storage drum stolen from a nuclear research base was used as a water butt, according to a report from Harwell laboratory in Oxfordshire.

Greater flexibility for GCSE pupils

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

BRIGHT children will be able to take their GCSEs a year early and then drop compulsory national curriculum lessons, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said yesterday.

Schools will have to enter whole classes whose pupils will be expected to achieve grades A to C, but children who do badly will not have to retake the examination, the education department said.

The change is one of a number to allow more flexibility in the school timetable so that children can take subjects outside the legally required curriculum, such as an additional foreign language and the classics, the three sciences, or vocational courses.

Mr Clarke's announcement confirms earlier decisions on lessons for pupils aged 14 to 16. Children will be required to take only mathematics, science and English at GCSE

although they will have to take courses in a modern language and technology, but not necessarily at GCSE.

The government yesterday defended its decision to block publication of an English grammar manual for schools which it had commissioned as part of a £21 million project into the teaching of English.

Language in the *National Curriculum*, was not being published because it gave the dangerous impression that "ungrammatical or badly presented work should be understood and condoned rather than corrected", Tim Eggar, the education minister said.

Writing in this week's *Times Educational Supplement*, Mr Eggar says that he accepts that there is a place for dialect and that different forms of English could be used for different purposes but that children must be taught how to use the language correctly.

Calculated beginning for 'first' computer

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

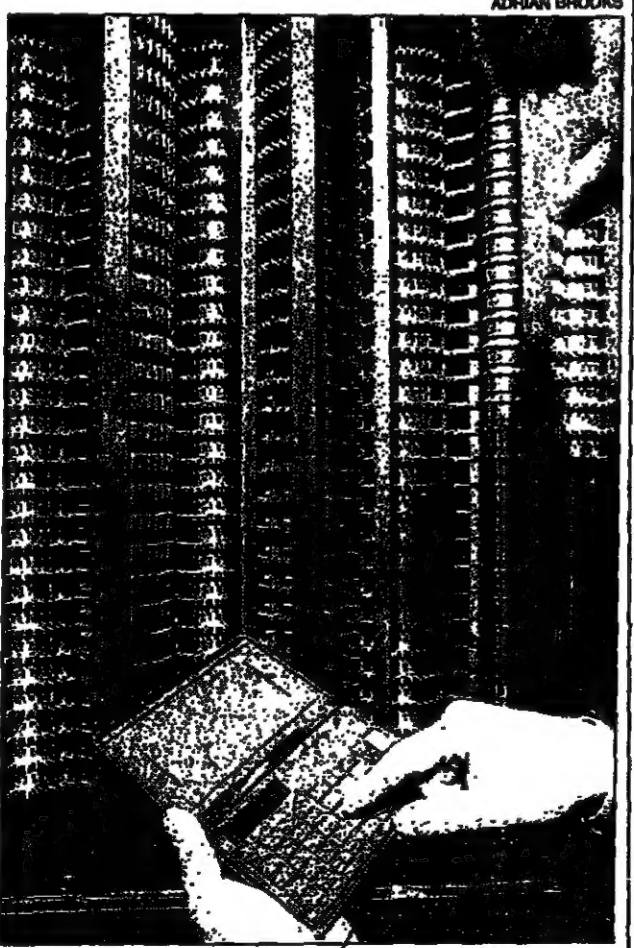
AT THE turn of a handle, the computer's earliest ancestor creaked into life yesterday at the Science Museum, south Kensington. Wheels turned, huge vertical rods bobbed, and the man turning the handle began breathing more deeply. History was being made as Charles Babbage's difference engine no 2 ground out the digits as its inventor intended.

True, it was not given a very demanding task on its first public outing since being constructed by the museum to mark the 200th anniversary of Babbage's birth. Three tons of bronze, cast iron and steel was being used to add a series of zeroes together.

Doron Swade, the museum's curator of computing, said that the mechanism for "carrying" digits needed a final adjustment before he would dare display the machine's full capabilities in public. Secretly, however, he and the two museum engineers who have put the machine together, Reg Crick and Barrie Holloway, have used it to work out a table of X to the power of seven and, with just a few exceptions, got the right answers.

The difference engine no 2 was designed between 1847 and 1849 as a way of mechanising the production of arithmetic, logarithmic and navigational tables. Like Babbage's other mechanical computers, the first difference engine and the even more ambitious analytical engine, it was never completed, in spite of the investment of substantial public funds.

The idea of building it came from Allan Bromley, an Australian computer specialist from the university of Sydney. From the piles of drawings left by Babbage he estimated that the engine could be built for £250,000. His estimate was closer than Babbage ever came, for the construction, supported by five British computer companies, cost £300,000.



Relative values: Babbage's difference engine no 2 dwarfs its hand-held micro chip successor

Queen takes the fast train to Scotland

By ALAN HAMILTON

WHEN Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, the court messenger Sir Robert Ponsonby wore out many sweating horses riding to Edinburgh in a record-breaking three days with the news for King James VI that the London job was his. James's direct descendant will repeat the journey today in four hours and 45 minutes which, speedy though it is, is not as fast as it could be.

When British Rail's £300 million east-coast electrified service opens to the public next month, the twin capitals of Britain will be but four hours and three minutes apart, including stops at Newcastle upon Tyne and York, shaving half an hour off the present best time. The Queen will inaugurate the service at a slightly more leisurely pace today because, according to a British Rail spokesman, there is simply no good reason for her to go any faster.

When the Queen last took the train to Scotland, to attend the Gulf memorial

service in Glasgow cathedral, the engine broke down and the normally split-second sovereign arrived at her destinations 20 minutes late and not in the best of humours. Before leaving King's Cross this morning, the Queen will try to bestow better fortune on the locomotive of the day by naming it Queen Elizabeth II. She should be aware that a previous experiment in such benevolent nomenclature by this newspaper ended in failure. A locomotive named The Times crashed soon after its christening, and only the nameplate survives.

Accompanied by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, and Sir Bob Reid, the British Rail chairman, the Queen will travel north at under 100mph in a new-generation 225 train capable of doing 140mph - although not with existing track and signalling equipment, which British Rail may subsequently upgrade if the popularity of the new service makes it worthwhile

financially. The train will stop at Newcastle for 20 minutes to allow the Queen to unveil a plaque commemorating her journey and to meet 12 civic leaders from the principal towns along her route. She would be well advised, however, not to honour any of them. When Queen Victoria first crossed the old Tay bridge on her way to Balmoral in 1879 she knighted the designer, Sir Thomas Bouch. Six months later the bridge blew down and took a train and 75 passengers to the bottom of the river.

The Queen's journey marks the start of the court's annual week at the Palace of Holyrood house, a reminder that Britain is a union of two kingdoms. In recent years the Queen has been in the habit of travelling to Edinburgh by air. If today's train performs as British Rail prays it will, she may consider using it again considering that, given a Rolls and a police escort, Holyrood is a convenient five minutes from Waverley station.

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Family MPs win enquiry into late Commons hours

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FULL review of the operation of the Commons, including MPs' working hours, was announced yesterday after growing pressure for change from backbenchers, particularly women and those with young families.

The investigation into the procedures and hours of the Commons is to be carried out by a specially created select committee on sittings of the House which is expected to issue its report early next year. The first review for more than 20 years of MPs' working hours will also look at the way public and private business is dealt with by the Commons, the ordering and timing of business, the length of parliamentary sessions and the hours that the House sits each day. It will look at the possibility of morning sittings of the House, fewer late nights and four rather than three sessions of Parliament a year.

The campaign for reform has been fuelled by the arrival in 10 Downing Street of John Major who is more sympathetic to the arguments for

change that received a boost during the Tory leadership contest when Douglas Hurd, foreign secretary, called for working practices to be altered. Mr Major is keen to see more women MPs and hopes that the enquiry could lead to an increase in their number.

However, other senior ministers believe that the lack of women MPs is less to do with the way the Commons operates and more to do with the constituency selection processes of both main parties.

The new select committee will be chaired by Michael Jopling, Conservative MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale and a former government chief whip, and will include Sir Peter Emery, chairman of the House's procedure committee. It will also include women MPs and newer members and will be allowed to visit Australia and Canada to see how their legislatures work.

Announcing the select committee, John MacGregor, leader of the House, said that, although some changes in

working practices and procedures had been introduced, there was now a need for a wider and deeper look at our procedures and the hours we sit. However, he told MPs that, although there was consensus on the need for a review, there was widespread disagreement on possible changes.

The select committee will look at the changes in complexity and quantity of government business and EC legislation during the past 30 years and the effect that has had on the balance between business taken on the floor of the House and business taken upstairs in committees. It will also study the growth in importance of select committees and the changing demands made upon MPs in their constituency work.

On average, the Commons sits for nine hours a day, including the shorter day on Friday from 9.30am to 3pm. On about four-fifths of Mondays to Thursdays when the Commons sits at 2.30pm, MPs sit later than 10.30pm.



Out of the mouths: Harriet Harman visiting a nursery yesterday while campaigning with Peter Kilfoyle, Labour candidate in the Liverpool, Walton by-election (Ronald Faax writes). The health service has been a key issue in the by-election, called after Eric Heffer's death, with local hospitals planning to opt out. Mrs Harman, a Labour health spokesman, appealed to Liverpool hospitals yesterday to ban queue-jumping deals which, she said, could be sought by doctors who run their own budgets.

Submarine cut attacked

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to reduce the Royal Navy's diesel-powered submarine fleet to four boats were criticised by MPs yesterday. There should be a minimum of six, they said in a report.

MPs on the Commons defence committee said that they were far from satisfied with the proposal, announced by

Tom King, defence secretary, last year, to cut the diesel boats from nine to four. Nuclear submarines are being reduced to 12.

Under present plans, the navy will retain four Upholder class diesel boats. The older Oberon class submarines are to be withdrawn from service. The MPs said that some of

the Oberon boats should be kept in service with the Upholders. Unlike nuclear boats, diesel-powered boats could operate in shallow water. They were also quieter and could lie on the seabed in silence, virtually undetectable.

The defence committee also said that the total of 12 nuclear submarines was the "barest minimum" required, adding that it was surprised the government was not studying the possible introduction of sea-launched cruise missiles in submarines. The MPs called for a study of the viability of deploying the missiles with conventional warheads. They also urged the defence ministry to look into the possible development of a submarine missile system as a protection against anti-submarine helicopters.

Britain's industrial base for the design and manufacture of submarines was being left "perilously close to the edge", the report said and added that it was essential that the ministry kept a close eye on industrial developments to ensure that key submarine manufacturing capabilities were not irreversibly lost.

Trident: If the Conservatives placed an order for a fourth Trident nuclear submarine before the election, a Labour government would reserve the right to look at the contract and decide whether to cancel.

Martin O'Neill, Labour defence spokesman, made clear during yesterday's Commons debate on the Royal Navy that Labour would not order a fourth boat. The party did not consider that one was needed and it had never argued for one. It was a luxury that the country did not need.

He urged speed in placing contracts for the three new frigates announced yesterday because one of the most disturbing messages he got from shipyards, successful and unsuccessful bidders, was of the cynical approach of the defence procurement executive which allowed orders to slip, and then requested further tenders, causing further delay.

Royal Navy Submarines, Commons defence committee (Stationery Office, £18.15).



Major in plea for ex-spy's family

The prime minister is to press President Gorbachev to allow the wife and two daughters of the former Russian spy, Oleg Gordievsky, to join him in Britain.

During question time in the Commons, Mr Major said that he and other ministers had raised the case before and officials had had talks about it. He would raise it again when he next met the Soviet leader. Mr Gorbachev is due in London next month at the end of the G7 summit.

The daughters, Mariya, aged 12, and Anna, aged 10, and their mother, Liela, are banned from leaving the Soviet Union.

Any answers?

Nearly 28,000 people were interviewed last year, at a cost of £2,300,000, so that the environment department could find out more about the effects of its policies and programmes, Michael Heseltine, environment secretary, said in a written reply.

Disaster lines

A new system is being prepared to inform relatives and friends about casualties after disasters, John Patten, a Home Office minister, told the Commons that the new system would enable incoming calls to be dealt with by different police forces using up to 500 telephone lines.

Guardsmen



The government came under renewed pressure to pay compensation to the three Grenadier guardsmen who lost legs in a training accident in Canada in July 1989. David Winnick (above), Labour MP for Walsall North, said that there was a strong feeling among senior Grenadier officers that the men should receive compensation. Why was the government determined that these three soldiers should continue to suffer? John MacGregor, leader of the House, said that the case could be raised on Monday during a Commons debate on the army.

Labour to publish anti-secrecy bill

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A DRAFT freedom of information bill is to be published by Labour in the autumn as part of its drive to provide people with greater access to information held in the public and private sector.

The Opposition is studying how to ensure that companies make available more details to the public, particularly where their activities could affect health, environmental and safety matters.

Roy Hattersley said that a freedom of information act must apply to more than the public sector and that protection for the consumer could not be limited to guarantees that did not cover private industry.

"Private companies have obligations and duties," he said. "We want safety assur-

ances from public and private corporations. Obligations to the consumer must be extended from the public to the private sector. They should be obliged to provide good services and to provide the information to enable a consumer to judge whether the service is good enough."

The Opposition proposes that a freedom of information bill will give people the right to see and copy official information held by central, regional and local government within 30 days of making the request and the right to have misleading or inaccurate personal information corrected or deleted. An information appeal tribunal would be set up to deal with refusals by private-sector or public corporations to provide information.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week is expected to be:

Monday: Debate on the army.
Tuesday: Debates on Opposition motions on housing and on the electricity and gas industries.

Wednesday: Debates on aid to Iraqi refugees and on unemployment.

Thursday: Debates on the steel industry and on hospital waiting lists.

Friday: Private members' bills.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be:

Monday: Planning and compensation bill, Commons amendments.

Tuesday: Atomic Weapons Establishment bill, committee.

Wednesday: Criminal justice bill, Commons amendments.

Thursday: School teachers' pay and conditions bill, committee.

Friday: Armed Forces bill, second reading.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on anti-social behaviour.

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John, white

Major spells out vision of a Britain of opportunity

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major pledged yesterday to build a Britain without barriers and to turn more of Britain's have-nots into haves. His aim, he said, on a day when the chancellor admitted that he could not say when economic recovery would begin, was to drive inflation so far into retreat that no one would ever again have to take it into consideration.

Seeking simultaneously to lower inflated expectations about his personal credo and to draw a line under the era of Thatcherism, he declared that the only "ism" he believed in was Conservatism.

Beginning to elucidate his proposals for a classless "opportunity society" and for his Citizens' Charter, Mr Major promised a drive against truancy, an education system fitted to children's needs and the development of a "right to own" encouraging everyone to have their own home, their own savings and their own occupational pension together with a stake in the business they worked for.

Conservatism, he said, was about giving people a hand up rather than a hand-out.

Addressing the Conservative women's conference in London, Mr Major echoed Margaret Thatcher in warning people not to expect governments to do too much for them. He spoke in more personal terms than previously. "I can remember vividly what it was like at 16 to believe that school was a waste of time. I don't want the 16 year olds of the 1990s to feel the same way. They must feel that school has given them what they need — the first steps up a ladder of opportunity."

Mr Major said that teenagers should not be forced to fit in with the system. "The system should be forced to fit in with them." Praising the "smart card" that young people would be given in the shape of the new training

credit to spend as they wanted, Mr Major said that too many children were denied opportunity because they stayed away from school. "I am not prepared to tolerate the position in some of our inner city schools, where one child in four is a regular truant."

He promised: "We will be placing tighter control on school registration, we will make sure unauthorised absence is recorded. And for schools as a whole that it is published each year."

Claiming that Labour would never understand the right to own, Mr Major promised, in a hint of more rent-to-own schemes, to offer new routes to home ownership. The prime minister also appeared to indicate that inheritance taxes may be lowered when he said: "The right to own carries with it a further right to hand on to the next generation a proper proportion of the fruits of a lifetime of work."

Outlining the need for good public services judged not by what they cost but by the quality they provided, Mr Major said the Citizen's Charter would give the customer more clout and the manager more responsibility. He said: "I intend once and for all to remove the sense of inferiority and apprehension that too many people still have when they face officialdom."

The charter would mean that people knew where they stood in dealing with public services. Performance targets would be published together with details of what services actually delivered.

Mr Major also promised a full programme of legislation for the parliamentary session beginning in the autumn including an education bill to "transform" further and higher education.

Philip Howard, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Looking ahead: Penny Beasley, representing the New Forest, studies her papers during a quiet moment before Mr Major's speech. He told delegates: "Conservatism is about giving people a hand up rather than a hand-out"

True blue heirs, but without the rinses

By JOE JOSEPH

"FOR security reasons," said the chairlady, Hazel Byford, after John Major had finished speaking to the 61st Annual Conservative Women's Conference yesterday, "please stay in your seats until the prime minister has cleared the building, because he has got something else to do on his way out."

Who said Tory women never had fun? Bernard Manning could not have raised a saucer roomful of laughs as John and Norma left the hall, making mental notes to either fire Mrs Byford's scriptwriter or to move him immediately into the PM's private chamber, so to speak.

To the politicians who address the annual Tory women's conference, politics is a job. To the women it's a passion. After spending all year stuffing circulars through letterboxes, the annual conference is a place to air ideas, meet friends, show your face if you're looking for a parliamentary seat, and to have some fun. A sort of political hen night.

"I've been coming ever since I married my husband," Lady McNair-Wilson, wife of the Tory MP for

Newbury, said. "So that's about 17 years. No, of course I haven't got a blue rinse. We're not that type of party any more. Look at all the young people here. Hats off to them. When I first came here everyone wore hats. Now no one does."

"No, I've never had a blue rinse," said Barbara Bell, of the Dartford Conservative women's association. "It wouldn't have suited me. I was auburn before my colour went. We come here to put the women's point of view. After all, we bring up the families. We know what's really going on. We thought Mrs Thatcher did a marvellous job. But John Major is a very good successor."

"The blue rinses are a bit of a myth," said Jane Ellison, aged 26, a management trainee with an eye on becoming an MP. "They were always a minority. There's a far broader spectrum of Tory women now."

At last, a blue-rinse Tory. Applauding Mr Major's speech. But just as I move towards her she leaves the room, behind Mr Major and his mysterious "something else to do". It didn't seem polite to follow.

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Interest rate cut pressure resisted

By NICHOLAS WOOD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister and the Chancellor yesterday resisted mounting pressure for an interest rate cut amid signs that Conservative backbenchers are losing faith in the Treasury forecast that economic recovery will begin in the second half of the year.

Accused by Neil Kinnock of punishing the British people by failing to make further reductions in the cost of borrowing, John Major insisted that although the policy might be uncomfortable it was the right one and the government would stick to it.

The Chancellor, who has been under pressure from within the cabinet to abandon his strategy of cutting rates by half a point at a time in favour of a bold move that might transform the economic climate, also said that he would not be stampeded into drastic remedies. Norman Lamont told the conference that he was not going to repeat the mistakes of the Sixties and Seventies and to fine-tune demand. "Governments cannot kick-start the economy."

He said he would not take risks and would cut lending rates only when he was certain it was safe. He was not looking for a temporary victory over inflation but was determined to defeat it once and for all.

The prospect of an upturn being delayed until next year, for the Tories dangerously close to an election, was first raised by Mr Lamont. The customary reference to a pick-up in demand beginning in the next six months was conspicuously absent from his address in which he said it was difficult to forecast when recovery would come.

Cabinet woos women voters

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS made a play for women's votes yesterday by insisting that an extension of women's choices in life will be at the centre of Conservative party policies.

John Major took the lead at the conference by associating himself with women's aspirations to create an opportunity society. Where Margaret Thatcher had emphasised the traditional role of a woman as mother and homemaker, her successor focused on wider horizons. He said that more women today wanted to combine career, marriage and family, something that most men took for granted.

"I believe you will instinctively understand the ambition I have to create a country in which the generations live in harmony with each other," Mr Major told his audience. The prime minister cited pro-women policies such as raising child benefit and safeguarding its value for the future, the independent taxation of married women and the tax exemption on many women's savings.

Michael Howard, the employment secretary, insisted that the Conservatives did not put forward the patronising simplicities of other parties by advocating a ministry for women or regional equality tribunals. "This party knows that what women want is opportunity and choice, not a pile of regulation and red tape," he said.

Gillian Shepherd, the first woman Treasury minister and prime candidate for the cabinet, underlined the role of women ministers, MPs and MEPs in the conference.

Lady Seccombe, a party vice-chairman, also talked of the advancement of Tory women in recent years. "We can be assured that not only issues of particular concern to women but, more important, the particular insights which women bring to all areas of policy, are firmly at the centre of our political life."

Although only four Conservative women have been selected to fight Tory-held seats in the next general election, Lady Seccombe said younger women were coming forward to join the candidates' list. The party also needed high calibre women councillors.

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Afternoon opening plan suggested for Sunday traders

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

DISTRICT council leaders in England and Wales yesterday offered the government a way out of the legal and political impasse over Sunday trading which has left local authorities powerless to enforce controls on garden centres, DIY stores and out-of-town shopping centres.

The Association of District Councils tabled proposals at its annual conference in Brighton which Roy Thomason, the chairman, said were a workable compromise.

The scheme, which allows trading between midday and 6pm on Sundays, was welcomed by the two pressure groups campaigning for and against Sunday trading. Keep Sunday Special, which opposes Sunday opening, said

that the plan was the biggest step forward in six years while the Shopping Hours Reform Council said that it was very good as far as it went.

The proposal, which has been sent to the Home Office, calls for a change in the law to regulate the type of premises allowed to open instead of the type of goods sold, as at present. Shops selling gardening and DIY materials would have an automatic right to open between noon and 6pm. Others with a floor space of less than 3,000 sq ft would be allowed to open without restriction.

Mr Thomason said: "We are sympathetic to people's desire to keep Sunday different from the rest of the week and to the rights of the

individual not to work on a Sunday if desired. But the status quo is completely unacceptable. Our compromise responds to these views. Sunday is a day of leisure, and DIY, gardening and going to the video shop are recreational activities."

During a heated debate, delegates condemned the present legal system as unworkable. However, a vote on a motion calling for the abolition of all Sunday trading laws was inconclusive. The result of a card vote on the issue will be announced today.

Derek Holley, a councillor on Huntingdonshire district council, said: "You can get drunk on a Sunday and you can even buy a girlie magazine but you cannot buy a Bible unless you go to a railway station."

Chris Clarke, of Mendip council, Somerset, said: "The law discriminates against small traders. We can close the little traders but we cannot touch the big ones."

Dolores Martell, a Conservative councillor from Surrey Heath council, said that her authority had even considered prosecuting a local church for selling goods on a Sunday in aid of Third World charities. "We believe in obeying the law and being even-handed. But as it stands the law is ridiculous," she said.



Dark past: the cells are inspected by Beryl Docherty, college cook, Stephen Singer, assistant schoolkeeper, Denys Avis, project co-ordinator, and students

Prison reopens to captivate tourists

CELLS beneath the ground which two centuries ago held highwaymen, footpads and pickpockets are to reopen in January for tourists.

Visitors to the House of Detention, Clerkenwell, central London, beneath Kingsway College performing arts centre, will be able to chart three centuries of crime and punishment. The cells were closed at the turn of the century but were used as air raid shelters during the second world war.

Among exhibits will be displays on Jack Sheppard, the highwayman hanged at Tyburn, and the equipment used by the last official hangman, Albert Pierrepoint.



Visiting time: from a contemporary engraving

Local authorities urged to adopt rule by cabinet

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS for an overhaul of the running of local authorities in England and Wales were approved by the cabinet yesterday. Ministers endorsed a consultation paper, to be published next month, which calls for a big reduction in the number of council committees and suggests setting up Downing Street-style cabinets to run local authorities.

The green paper on the internal management of local authorities is the third and final consultation paper prompted by the government's poll tax review. The first two, proposing the council tax and the abolition of one of the two tiers of local government in England, Wales and Scotland, have been published.

The latest paper will urge councils to divide their elected members into executive and representative groups. The former will become a policy-making committee and the latter will concentrate on representing constituents.

The cabinet confirmed its rejection of proposals by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, for elected mayors to run large cities. The idea, which would appear in the published document to enable Mr Heseltine to save face. A senior source said, however, that the chances of the policy becoming a reality were now very remote. Ministers have been under pressure from Conservative backbenchers to veto the plan because they fear that elected mayors would challenge their role as the principal spokesmen for their areas.

There was agreement on plans to encourage councils to reduce the number of committees and to appoint executive groups to oversee policy making. The recommendations in the green paper draw heavily on a report last year by the Audit Commission, which urged councillors to devote more time to policy making and less to detailed involvement in the day-to-day running of their council. The commission highlighted two unnamed education authorities, one of which held 32 committee meetings a year to allocate a budget of £230 million, while the other, with a budget of £160 million, convened 302 meetings.

As the cabinet met to discuss the document, Portsmouth city council announced plans to replace its seven main committees with two. Under plans initiated before last month's local government elections, at which the Conservatives lost control to a Labour and Liberal Democrat alliance, the council will have

Bank man cheated on cheques

A bank's computer operator cheated it of £10,000 and deposited the money with a rival next door. Hull crown court was told yesterday.

Andrew Nutbrown, aged 19, of Bransholme, Humberside, made out sums to himself from stolen temporary cheques. He mutilated the cheques so that they would be returned to the originating branch, where he destroyed them. He was sentenced to 12 months at a young offenders' institution after admitting theft and deception.

Appeal dropped
Karyn Smith, aged 20, from Solihull, appeared before a Bangkok court to withdraw her appeal against a 25-year sentence for drug smuggling. She intends to apply for a Thai royal pardon. Her friend, Patricia Cahill, aged 18, has been sentenced to 18 years.

PC stab case
David Anthony Moss, aged 24, of Hackney, north London, will appear in court today accused of the attempted murder of Ian Stanley, aged 19, a probationer policeman who was stabbed in a Clapton churchyard on Wednesday. PC Stanley's hospital condition yesterday was much improved.

Mother's gift
Mrs Carole Hill, a shop assistant at Arnold, Nottinghamshire, has donated one of her kidneys to Ian, her son aged 19, after he was taken ill with kidney failure.

'Horror's' shock
A central stage-prop of the touring musical *The Little Shop of Horrors*, the 24th head of a green man-eating monster plant, was stolen from a lorry at Crawley, Sussex.

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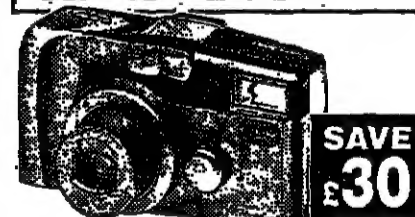
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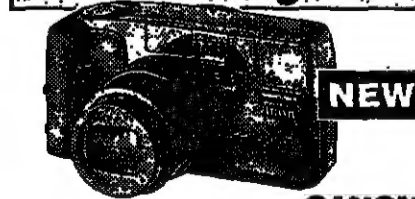
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Defiant Croat leader ready to pay cost of freedom

By DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CROATIA'S embattled president, Franjo Tudjman, said yesterday that his republic and the neighbouring breakaway republic of Slovenia would not be blackmailed by a "neo-communist federal Yugoslav government which has openly threatened to use military force to stop the will of the people".

Mr Tudjman said James Baker, the US Secretary of State, had urged Slovenia and Croatia to negotiate. "But he apparently fails to realise that this gives the communists veto power over all dialogue," Mr Tudjman said in *The New York Times*.

"We have negotiated for over a year and have met with nothing but smug intransigence. There is no incentive for the communists to negotiate — the Western powers are too busy admonishing the young democracies to remain a part of a dying and discredited political system."

The "tanks of the tyrants" were rolling into Croatia and Slovenia much as they had rolled into Hungary 35 years ago, Mr Tudjman said. Yet there had been no admonishment from Mr Baker over the "absolute lunacy of the army mobilisation".

Mr Tudjman declared that neither tanks nor Mr Baker's lack of support and under-

standing would stop Croatia. "We are fully aware of our choices; we are fully aware of our place in the European community; we are fully aware, just as Americans were aware 200 years ago, of the costs of freedom."

Slovenia and Croatia meanwhile boycotted a meeting of Yugoslavia's federal presidency yesterday, while the country was described as a "powder keg" by Washington. Macedonia also stayed away from the talks. Croatia made it clear it fears troops may move against it after yesterday's display of force in Slovenia.

The state presidency, with only five of its eight members present, lent its weight to the army intervention, but again failed to resolve the impasse arising from Serbia's refusal to allow Stipe Mesic, a Croat, to take his place as president.

The United States and the EC both told Yugoslavia's foreign minister, Budimir Loncar, that it was crucial for the army's blockade of Slovenia to be lifted. Slovenia refuses to attend a meeting of the presidency until federal troops are withdrawn.

The Yugoslav federal prime minister, Ante Markovic, and his defence and foreign ministers also stayed away.

Leading article, page 15



Shattered illusions: a Yugoslav soldier examining the bullet holes yesterday in a window damaged in clashes between Croats and Serbs at Glina, Croatia

Army caught in political crossfire

From ROGER BOYES IN ZAGREB

THE Yugoslav army is the one remaining, functioning federal organisation in the country. There are more than 6,000 Croats and almost 3,000 Slovenes in the regular army and their loyalty in any confrontation with the breakaway republics must be in question.

The conscript part of the army is less vulnerable, however, since Croats and Slovenes have been avoiding conscription and signing up for their own republican self-defence forces. The two republics appear to have prepared for the worst. The federal interior ministry announced earlier this month that Slovenia and Croatia had drawn up a secret "defence and security alliance" to prepare for an attack. Thousands of automatic weapons have been pouring in from Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and America, and the weaponry in Croatia includes advanced anti-tank systems and mines.

Much depends now on the political skills of General Veljko Kadijevic, the defence minister, and of Ante Markovic, the prime minister. Both men are careful about the use of force, but there is still support in the Serbian-dominated army leadership for a

military solution. General Kadijevic seems to understand, however, that Yugoslavia cannot be held together by a multinational army.

His instinct has been to keep the army as distant as possible from ethnic politics. In spite of attempts by the Serbian communist leadership to drag the army into the crossfire — tanks were called out in Belgrade on March 9 to put down anti-communist rallies — the general sees the army as a neutral political force. Its overwhelming constitutional role is to preserve the integrity of Yugoslavia. Its practical task is to act as a peacekeeping buffer between, say, Serbian radicals and the Croatian authorities.

If the army attacked the independent republics in the name of preserving Yugoslavia, it would lose the neutrality it needs for its peacekeeping role. To the Croats and Slovenes, the Yugoslav army would unambiguously have become the Serbian army. An attack would, in any case, trigger a civil war that General Kadijevic wants to avoid. Yet the alternative is to do nothing — thus joining the long list of Yugoslav federal institutions that have lost their meaning.

Ukraine blow to treaty

Moscow — The Ukrainian parliament voted yesterday to delay discussion of a proposed new union treaty, ending President Gorbachev's hopes for quick approval of his plan to preserve the Soviet Union.

Deputies voted by a big majority to suspend consideration of the draft treaty until September to allow experts to assess if its terms contradict the republic's declaration of sovereignty last year.

The proposal to delay work on the treaty, put forward by the Ukrainian president, Leonid Kravchuk, appeared to be an attempt to find a compromise between conservative Communists who back the treaty and the nationalist opposition. (Reuters)

Yeltsin pay deal

Moscow — The Russian parliament voted a monthly salary of 4,000 roubles, £4,000 at the official exchange rate, for Boris Yeltsin, the republic's president. He will earn almost twice as much as President Gorbachev. (AFP)

Steel guitar

Oslo — Hildur Holst, aged 60, picked up a guitar and laid flat a 26-year-old man who broke into her Vannvaag home armed with a knife.

Prison reopens to captivate tourists

Local authorities urged to adopt rule by cabinet

Bank cheats on cheques



Comrades escape to rural idyll

From MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

To see Russians work on their dachas — almost anything from wooden shacks to brick-built palaces — is to glimpse another Russia where the individual, not the collective, rules.

Hundreds of thousands of Russians set off each weekend for their dachas and potato plots alongside for a couple of days in the countryside. The more fortunate leave Moscow on Friday afternoon in a car packed with food, vodka, wood, bricks, the children, the family dog and a can of petrol to make sure they can all get back again. The less fortunate stream on to

fence around. The woodwork is carved, the design in white, and a rickety bench stands in front for enjoying the evening sun.

While there is much communing with nature at the dacha, much deep breathing of country air and tramping through birch groves for mushrooms, isolation from humankind is not the main idea. Dachas tend to nestle close together in shady hollows which fill quickly with mud at the first hint of rain.

Like the Englishman's garden, the Russian's dacha is never finished. It evolves, swallowing hours of work, thousands of roubles and much loving care. Summer after summer it is extended, patched up, improved and re-equipped as taste and means permit, then packed up again for the winter.

But the rural idyll is not untrammelled. Since the cities introduced rationing last year, the country folk refuse to let the townspeople use their shops, leaving them to buy at private rates or go hungry. Thefts from dachas are increasing, in spite of locked gates, shutters and private security guards. Above all, there is envy of the dacha itself.

People who quietly accept the blatant privilege of the rulers in the capital draw the line at dachas. An industry of scandal-mongering has built up about which official has bought his dacha from the state at what knockdown rate in what secluded location and with what extravagant services thrown in.

For those without such advantages, notices about vacant dachas start appearing long before the winter is out. This year, too, the newly diversified urban press has launched a multitude of new publications for the freelance peasant.

The hectic weekend of fieldwork over, the reluctant proletarians make their way home. Broken-down cars are skewed across the near side every hundred yards or so awaiting help, their owners anticipating a week of rest and relaxation at their overmanned factory before real life resumes on Friday.



the local trains from 5 am, four or five members of the same family bent double under the weight of their scythes and bundles, looking every inch the peasants from whom most are descended.

Even with their burdens, three-quarters of the way through a stifling June, these dachniki are sitting pretty. They are the ones who, by dint of contacts, money, accident of inheritance or just plain luck, have a place in the country.

In its classic form, the dacha is a blue or green painted wooden house with two or three rooms and a

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How Twelve line up in summit debate on Europe's future



John Major: Britain

Mystifies his peers with combination of personal friendliness and obduracy on what they see as main issues of draft treaty. Will not sign up to anything specific, while being as polite as possible to prevent any potential explosion.



François Mitterrand: France

As France favours a "federal goal", he will argue for greater community powers, but against new powers for the European parliament. He will argue for a common foreign and defence policy, as long as France can pursue its own interests.



Helmut Kohl: Germany

German opinion favours federalism. Regions think it would strengthen them against Bonn and Berlin. He will argue for greater powers for the European parliament but will continue cautious about details of monetary union.



Giulio Andreotti: Italy

The grandfather of the gathering, he is usually seen gazing indulgently at the antics of Gianni De Michelis, his foreign minister. Although Italy is passionately pro-federal, ministers will argue against ambushing Britain.



Felipe González: Spain

Reluctant candidate on short list to succeed Delors as head of Commission at end of 1992. Spain leads "Club Med" of Italy, Greece and Portugal demanding transfer of funds from north to south, using threat to block treaty as lever.



Ruud Lubbers: Netherlands

Favoured to succeed Jacques Delors. His country is committed to a federal Europe and will take over European presidency at the climax of negotiations in December. Supports need for treaty to accommodate wishes of all 12 member states.



Constantine Mitsotakis: Greece

Greece is an economic basket case. Worried about being left behind by monetary union, and also worried about being included without being paid large amounts of compensation. Will go along with Mediterranean majority.



Aníbal Cavaco Silva: Portugal

Self-effacing man from bottom of economic league table. Portugal supports British opposition to the word "federal" and shares its doubts about including defence in the treaty and boosting the power of the European parliament.



Wilfried Martens: Belgium

Influential in group of six Christian Democratic prime ministers who back European "federal" when they last met a week ago. Backs most ambitious programmes; wants to push Britain harder.



Jacques Santer: Luxembourg

Host and chairman. Likely to put pressure on Britain and others unenthusiastic about strengthening European parliament. Hopes to end his country's presidency this weekend with more than a situation report to show for it.



Poul Schlüter: Denmark

Answerable to a parliament which defends its sovereignty as fiercely as the House of Commons. Denmark is economically very dependent on Germany so he will make the right European noises but will not look for trouble.



Charles Haughey: Ireland

Dislikes the entire debate about common foreign and defence policy which threatens the Irish Republic's traditional neutrality. Also in British corner resisting draft treaty proposals to extend the power of the European parliament.

EC ranks split over new role for parliament

In the last of *The Times* series on the draft EC union treaty, Michael Binyon reports on the divisive issue of greater power for the European parliament

INCREASING the powers of the European parliament, an issue eclipsed by the debate over common foreign and defence policies, may turn out to be the most divisive issue in the draft on European political union. Not only does it pit many MEPs against their national parliaments — especially Westminster, it also sets the French and Germans on opposite sides, and creates tension between Strasbourg and the European Commission in Brussels.

Britain and France, with strong national parliaments, have no wish to increase the powers of MEPs, except in limited fields. Other countries with weak central parliaments, such as Italy and Belgium, believe that Strasbourg must play a bigger role. Germany is the main champion of parliament.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, has insisted that reform must be agreed before the coming European elections, and has refused to allow economic and monetary union to go ahead with parallel increases in the parliament's powers. Bonn believes that a new European central bank must be independent, accountable to parliament rather than to national governments, and therefore wants to give Strasbourg political credibility.

The Commission also is jealous of any parliamentary intrusion on its monopoly of legislative initiative. For the past three years relations between Strasbourg and Brussels have steadily deteriorated as Jacques Delors, the Commission president, has accused the 518 MEPs, and especially the leaders of the political groups, of frustrating the legislative timetable and opposing Brussels directives solely as a lever to increase their power. Under the treaty

terms the European parliament would see its first increase in power since the Single European Act gave it the "co-operation procedure".

This gave parliament the right to a second reading of single market legislation with the power to vote for amendments that, if accepted by the Commission, could only be thrown out by the Council of Ministers.

Parliament would have the power to vote on the appointment of the president of the European Commission and fellow commissioners, whose nomination must be approved as a whole. It could not sack individual commissioners. The treaty does not go nearly as far in giving parliament legislative co-decision, as parliament, acting on a report by the Labour MEP David Martin, demanded in its submission. Brussels retains the monopoly of initiative. But parliament now has much wider powers of inspection, supervision and investigation.

The draft proposed the right to set up a temporary committee of enquiry "to investigate, without prejudice to the powers conferred by the treaty on other institutions or bodies, alleged contraventions or maladministration in the implementation of community law." The only exception would be if the facts were before a court.

EC citizens, singly or in groups, would also have the right to address petitions to parliament, which would appoint an independent ombudsman to receive them. The ombudsman must tell the institutions concerned of his findings, and give them three months to reply before forwarding his report.

Philip Howard, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Four steps to reach agreement

THE summit should be a "stepping stone" to a treaty on monetary and political union at the end of the year, with the focus on four topics (George Brock writes)

1. Powers of the European parliament. Eight governments and the European Commission want it to be able to veto some community laws. Britain opposes this.

2. "Cohesion" — the EC term for transfers of money from the richer northern economies to poorer southern states.

3. Foreign policy, including a possible EC defence policy. Distinction is confused by use of "security policy" in draft.

4. Convergence of European economies so that single currency can be considered. The draft proposes no imposition of a single currency on any government; no veto by any single country on progress by others; and no forcible exclusion of weaker economies.

Twin pillars of Kremlin's power fall without regrets

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Warsaw Pact and Comecon, twin pillars on which Soviet military and economic power in Eastern Europe rested for more than 40 years, will be formally dismantled this weekend, lamented by their members and without any successors in sight.

Comecon, the nine-nation Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, will be dissolved in Budapest today, its demise underwritten by trade and economics ministers from the Soviet Union, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Vietnam and Cuba. On Monday the remaining political organisation of the Warsaw Pact will be wound up in Prague. Its military structure was dissolved in March.

Comecon, founded in 1949 to strengthen Moscow's hold over the satellite East European economies, attempted to

allocate specific manufacturing activities to the planned economies of its communist members. It operated a form of barter trade based on a notional currency, the transferable rouble, depending on the Soviet Union for cheap energy and on more technically advanced countries such as East Germany for finished products.

Comecon maintained an uncompetitive market with no incentive for innovation. Quality fell behind, and the world market for once thriving industries in Czechoslovakia and Hungary was virtually ruined. Comecon tried to modernise its structure by introducing market prices and hard currency on January 1 this year, but no member has the dollar reserves to buy on the previous scale, and intra-bloc trade has suffered a catastrophic fall. This collapse has worried the

leaders of the new East European democracies and Western trading partners, especially the European Community. The former Comecon headquarters in Moscow will now be turned over to another use, while the members discuss new, looser trading links. Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland are trying to resurrect trade between them with proposals for a free trade zone.

East Europe's former political integration will also be dissolved when the Warsaw Pact is abolished on Monday. The political arm was never important and the pact has ceased to have military significance. But its disappearance will underline the feelings of insecurity among its former members, who have been rebuffed in attempts to join Nato and who are now proposing bilateral security arrangements with each other.



Square deal city: Potsdamer Platz, target of the multinationals which want to move into the new capital of Germany. Land prices in Berlin have doubled after last week's decision to move the government there and property in the open space once

occupied by the Wall is at a premium (Ian Murray writes from Bonn). Sony bought one of the best sites on Potsdamer Platz for "only" DM3,240 (£1,100) a square metre. Dittmar Staffelt, leader of the Social Democrats in the senate, has complained

that the land was worth three times that much. Daimler-Benz, however, bought 61,000 square metre site on Potsdamer Platz for DM1,505 a square metre, and paid DM13,000 a square metre for a small extra piece of private land.

Major's easy days draw to an end

From GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

IN THE seven months since Margaret Thatcher went, British diplomacy in Europe has experienced its own perestroika. Officials putting the British case on anything from South African sanctions to sausages no longer have to look over their shoulders to Downing Street.

But the tone of the parliamentary debates in London has brought back some of the old caution. "You couldn't possibly sell that to the House of Commons," British officials in Brussels say.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has asked all ministers to make European policy a mind. He himself has mastered the technique of solid obduracy inside the meeting room combined with sweet reasonableness at the press conference afterwards.

The key adviser to John Major, the prime minister, and Mr Hurd at European summits is Sir John Kerr, the wily, chain-smoking British ambassador to the EC. Partnered by Nigel Wickes, the head of the Treasury's international department, Sir John is the government's main treaty negotiator.

All that British policy in Europe lacks is a coherent central aim. Emile Noel, the Frenchman who established and ran the administration of the European Commission for 30 years, used to say that the British delegation at the EC was a Rolls-Royce which never drove in top gear.

The delegation, formally the UK Permanent Representation to the EC, is universally known in Brussels as "Ukreps". Every nationality admires its incisive and well-briefed intervention on the cornflake content directive. Need a wrinkle smoothed out in the draft communiqué? Call the Brits.

But British officials are incessantly asked what they want in the long term and are stuck for an agreed answer. Germany genuinely wants to melt into a wider Europe. France wants to lead Europe away from America's shadow. The southern countries want money. Britain ... wants an ombudsman at the European parliament, and even that idea was Danish.

Britain does have objectives in the treaty conference: keeping foreign policy and policing separate from the community, improving financial accountability and redrafting the clause on subsidiarity, which is supposed to distribute powers to the lowest appropriate level of government. But none of the items on this shopping list can conceal the depth of British disagreement with the aim of a single currency, the extension of both community powers and majority voting or the inclusion of defence in the community's future plans.

All Britain's partners are now aware that the affability and technical proficiency of Britain's new style in Brussels will be tested by the second half of the treaty negotiation. Mr Major's honeymoon in Europe is ending.

Health spa fire kills 19

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BARBOTAN-LES-THERMES

AT LEAST 19 people being treated at a health spa in southern France were killed yesterday by toxic smoke from a fire that started when workers accidentally spilled hot tar on a roof, igniting insulation material.

Flames spread from the roof over a heated pool, sending toxic fumes into the pool area, the authorities here said. The building was cleared, and the blaze was extinguished by firefighters using water from the pool.

The spa is used by people suffering from rheumatism. Its treatments include heated mud baths.

Monsieur Rigueur goes on spending spree

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

SOMEWHERE in the cellars of the French ministry of economics and finance's hideous new complex on the Quai de Bercy is a statue that everyone working there would rather forget. Commissioned at more than a million francs (about £100,000), it depicts two huge interlocked gold ingots and was originally intended to occupy a prominent spot in the central courtyard.

Alas, that was not to be in the dry observation of the latest report by the Cour des Comptes, the official watchdog for public spending. "The symbolic aspect was finally found to be displeasing." Nor is this the only cavalier waste of taxpayers' money laid at the door of Pierre Bérégovoy, the finance minister, whose pungent views on the need for financial restraint have earned him the unaffectionate nickname of "Monsieur Rigueur".

There is also the little matter of two speedboats purchased at a cost of £360,000 for M Bérégovoy's use and the specially built dock alongside the complex on the Seine to accommodate them. As for decorating the new ministry — the architectural style has been described as "soft stalinist" — the Cour des Comptes noted acutely that well over £4 million had been spent, with another £2 million going towards making the "ministerial enclaves" fit for M Bérégovoy.

The government accountants concluded that moving from the wonderful quarters in the Louvre to the Quai de Bercy had cost about twice as much as the ministry's experts had estimated. Not the best of advertisements for budgetary rigour, noted the newspaper *Libération*, especially when M Bérégovoy's minions are busily pruning spending plans submitted by other ministries.

The beady eye of the Cour des Comptes also fell upon one of President Mitterrand's most cherished monuments to his own glory, the massive Arche de la Défense on the western fringe of Paris. It has considerably greater architectural merit than the Quai de Bercy, and the view from the top — through the Arc de Triomphe and along the Champs Elysées to the Place de la Concorde — is certainly spectacular. But so is the amount it has cost taxpayers: the equivalent of £27 million so far, roughly double the original estimates. The failure to find tenants for office space there (the environment ministry was said to be moving there but has still not appeared) is driving the public deficit steadily higher.

Among other notably expensive white elephants outside Paris, the report touched caustically on a futuristic underwater observatory

established in a little village near Narbonne three years ago and used only once to date. For an investment of almost £4.5 million, *Le Figaro* observed with relish, it is truly a "bubble in troubled waters".

But for connoisseurs of financial irresponsibility, or worse, the turbulent city of Nice on the Côte d'Azur takes the biscuit. In a report of mastery understatement, the Cour des Comptes concludes that the long-serving former mayor, Jacques Médecin, was effectively running the municipality as a private fiefdom and had prospered mightily.

M Médecin bolted to Latin America some time ago, whence he occasionally issued aggrieved statements claiming political persecution by the Socialists. The prospect of retrieving any of the vast amounts of money that cannot now be accounted for are considered slim indeed.

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Washington seeks to tighten Iraq sanctions after nuclear cover-up

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

THE Bush administration, angered by Iraqi attempts to conceal operations at nuclear sites, has mounted an intensive international campaign to maintain and possibly tighten United Nations sanctions.

The White House has come under increasing pressure in past days to explain why President Saddam Hussein appears to be able to thwart the UN peace terms so easily. Jesse Helms, a senior Republican senator, said this week that the "safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency do not stop the building of nuclear weapons".

Earlier this week, agency inspectors were turned away from a nuclear site north of Baghdad. US State Department officials said that the team saw "frenzied activity" as workers cleared the site of heavy moving equipment that might have been used in arms production.

in an unusually open revelation of material gathered from intelligence sources, the Bush administration released reconnaissance photographs to the UN Security Council of sites where nuclear activity is suspected. Members of Congress have been especially alarmed by the claims of an Iraqi defector that Saddam had built a secret site for producing enriched uranium under a mountain in Mosul, northern Iraq. Although the scientist said that Iraq was using an old-fashioned method of separation to obtain fissile uranium, experts are divided over whether modern technology might have improved the technique.

The reports have revived disagreements among officials in Washington during the war over exactly how close Iraq was to being the first Arab country with nuclear arms. But even those sceptical of

Iraqi technology believe that the flouting of an agreement to allow inspection of nuclear sites must be treated seriously.

The row over Iraqi nuclear potential coincides with growing concern over Chinese exports of missiles and other nuclear technology to Arab countries. Such exports to Algeria have become an issue for congressional Democrats campaigning to block President Bush's renewal of preferential trading rights for Peking. Iraq has Chinese long-range missiles, which are also the subject of current UN inspection.

The State Department has not ruled out moves to tighten further sanctions if Iraq fails to heed its warnings this week to comply. Washington has been embarrassed since the end of the Gulf war by revelations of high-technology sales to Iraq of equipment that could be used to make nuclear arms. America reiterated several weeks ago its refusal to lift a United Nations-backed trade embargo against Iraq until Saddam was out of power.

The White House is also concerned that countervailing pressures might encourage some softening of sanctions. Some officials fear that a series of front-page media reports about the plight of Iraqis lacking medical care could sway domestic opinion toward wanting restrictions to be lifted. The *New York Times* has published photographs of children in Iraq said to be dying of disease and malnutrition, following the allied bombing campaign that destroyed some medical facilities. Medical workers complained about shortages of medicines and equipment.

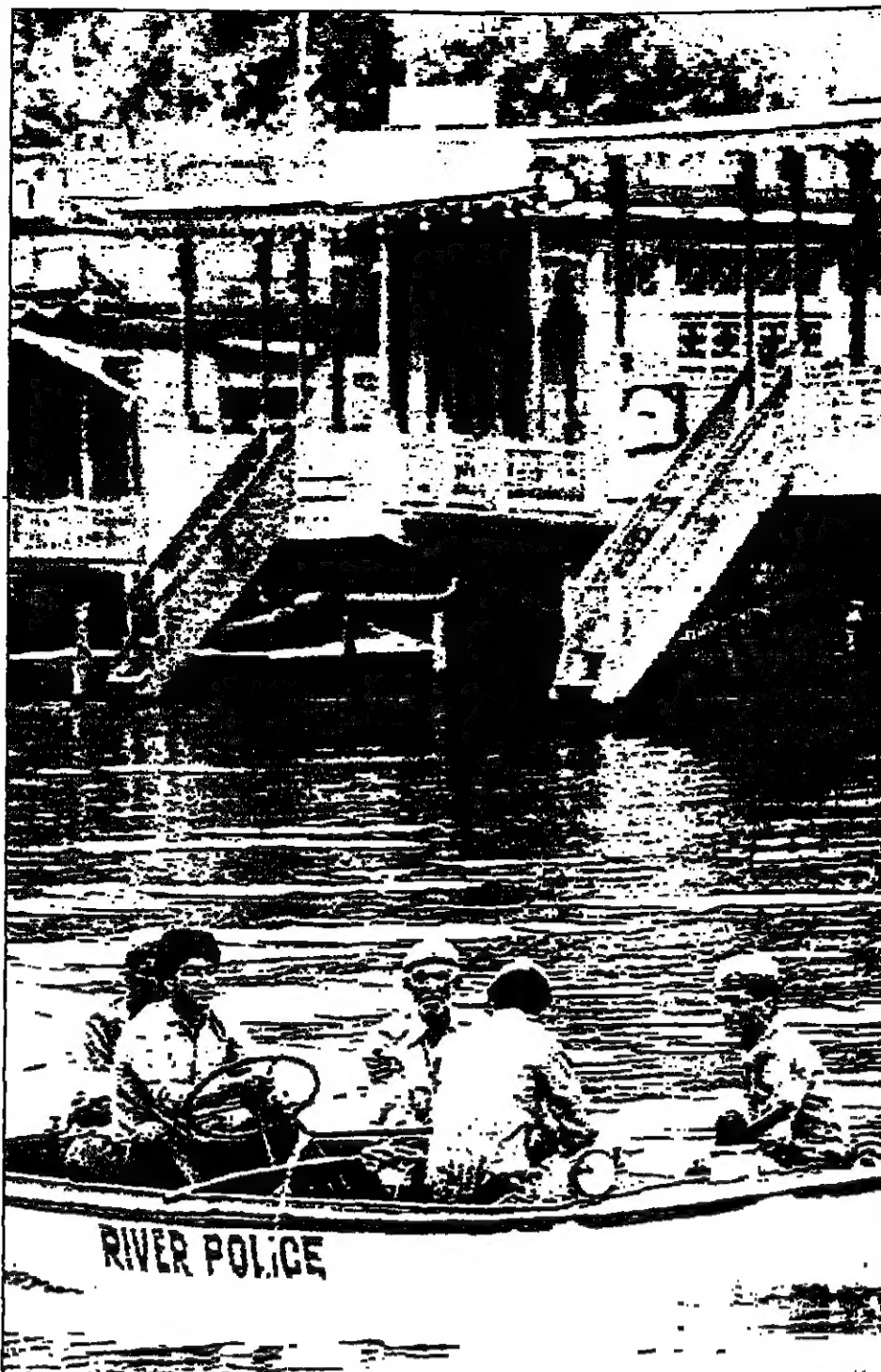
Last weekend *The Washington Post* included an account indicating that the US-led war effort had targeted and destroyed more civilian facilities than had been officially admitted.

The accounts are a political liability for President Bush, who repeated told Americans during the Gulf war that the United States had no argument with the Iraqi people, only their leader, for annexing Kuwait last August.

Nicolas Iraq yesterday denounced Washington's accusations that it had a covert nuclear weapons programme, calling the claims a plot to ensure sanctions remain in force, and challenged the evidence (Michael Theodorou writes).

"We categorically deny these empty allegations and accusations," a foreign ministry official said. He called on the State Department spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, to "produce these alleged pieces of evidence and their sources so the world at large might come to know the truth of the campaign of deception and lies".

Renewed condemnation of Iraq comes as coalition governments push ahead with plans to establish a rapid deployment force to protect the Kurds, whose leaders are stalling on an autonomy deal with Baghdad. Kurdish officials are also insisting that Saddam is still covertly producing chemical weapons which they fear will be used against them.



Troubled waters: Indian river police pass tourist houseboats while patrolling Dal lake in Srinagar, where Israelis were seized by Kashmir Muslim separatists

Vietnam's new leader will choose the Chinese road

By David Watts, Diplomatic Correspondent

VIETNAM'S ruling Communist party has replaced its ailing leader with an old-style revolutionary.

The new secretary-general is Do Muoi, aged 74, a former Hanoi painter and decorator of peasant stock. He has worked his way gradually up the party hierarchy after joining a secret cell under the French, who later jailed him. But as the man originally sent to carry out the hopeless task of the "socialist transformation" of the southern half of the country, he can be expected to stay close to the official party line that, while economic reform is the order of the day, the state must remain supreme.

The Saigon experiment ended in 1979 just four years after the fall of the city to the communists, but the new leader learned from the experience and embraced reform from the 1986 party congress. He is likely to pursue what is now virtually the only choice for the Vietnamese party — the Chinese model of limited economic reform without political pluralism. He can also be expected to pursue a closer political relationship with Peking as the solution to Vietnam's Cambodian quagmire.

The seventh party congress yesterday also elected a new 13-man politburo, of whom eight are new faces, notably younger, and of whom five are

from the more prosperous and reform-minded south. Previously only three members had been southerners in a country where the political elite hails from the north.

The best-known casualty of the congress was the foreign minister, Nguyen Co Thach, who had worked hard at opening up an improved relationship with the West, the only real hope with the economy spiralling downwards.

The continued American rewriting of the rules for Vietnam's readmission into the family of nations helped make his task impossible despite the resumption of diplomatic

relations with the EC. Japan followed America's lead in refusing aid and investment until the Cambodian problem was solved, clearly a task beyond Vietnam's reach.

Washington said in 1988 it would normalise relations if Hanoi withdrew from Cambodia. Hanoi withdrew its troops in 1989 but Washington then said that the Cambodian imbroglio must be solved before the two countries could enjoy normal relations.

"We very highly appreciate the very rich imagination of some Americans. But I am afraid that once these conditions are fulfilled, the Americans might think of some new conditions," Mr Co Thach was quoted as saying yesterday. With his ability to use English with a kaleidoscopic range of meanings within a single sentence, Mr Co Thach was unique in his ability to communicate with the West.

The former foreign minister may also have paid the price for being seen as more pro-Soviet than pro-Chinese. Relations with Moscow have so changed — with aid slashed and all trade now in hard currency — that the party has abolished what was formerly a special bureau to deal with the Soviet Union. The country is now treated as merely another European state.



Do Muoi yesterday: news close to the party line

ANGOLA NOTEBOOK by Jan Raath

Peacemakers bring gift of sleep

Sleep is one of the many things that peace has brought to the Red Cross sub-delegation in Huambo, the second city of Angola. Within days of the signing of the peace agreement between President Dos Santos and Jonas Savimbi, the head of the American-



backed Unita rebel movement, the 180 miles road to the coast was cleared of mines and opened to traffic. The first convoys carried diesel fuel, allowing local authorities to keep the standby generator that has been the city's sole source of energy for years running from dawn to midnight. This

meant that the air force colonel who lives next door to the sub-delegation did not have to rely on the one-tonne Soviet military generator in his backyard to keep his refrigerator and television going. The Red Cross officials say they learnt to sleep through the often nightly artillery bombardments and the constant rattle of machinegun fire, but the colonel's generator was worthy of Dante's imagination.

The sounds of explosions have gone and one scarcely sees a soldier any more. The nights are now filled with a cacophony of barking, yapping and howling as the city's dogs, after years of cowering silently during the non-stop fireworks, discover their own dimensions of peace.

Three days after Mr Dos Santos and Mr Savimbi embraced each other like old chums, repair teams from the British-owned Benguela railway company had been dispatched from Huambo and Lobito on the coast to get the line in running order. The city then will no longer have

to rely on the hugely expensive airlifts that brought everything from jet fuel and ammunition to maize meal.

The railway company, owned by the London-registered Tanganyika Concessions, was more ready than anyone else in Angola to begin the reconstruction process. The Portuguese staff of 3,000 at the technical workshops at Huambo fled around 1975 with the independence conflagration, leaving behind some 800 Angolan-born *mesticos* (mixed race) and scarcely literate *indigenas*.

For the last 16 years the 800 have been clocking in to dust off the locomotives, oil hinges and pistons and keep the vast investment in plant and equipment running by doing small jobs repairing almost anything for the city.

Apart from the rocket damage inflicted by Unita on some of the buildings, Huambo is an unassuming step back in time. If the former labour force returned tomorrow, they would find the same *mesticos* and

indigenas, but much older, and the same walls, machines and furniture but turned a pale brown by the weather, like some of the safety and operating instructions pinned to the notice-board, dated 1974.

One of the jobs the foundry shop could not manage was to smelt down the one-tonne bronze bell with the inscription "Ano 1949" from the Catholic cathedral. It was saved by the fact that it was too big to fit into the ovens, rather than by the government's new recognition of religious freedom.

The showpiece of the yard is coach R404, a dining car built in Birmingham in 1929, with inlaid teak panelling, frosted windows and ornate chrome sauce trays fixed to the walls. R404 will probably never be used again. It was meant for the delights of colonial travellers first-class as it rolled through the Angolan game reserves and probably would not survive one trip with the demobilised soldiers, refugees and UN observer troops that are to be the railway's first passengers in the new peace.

Kashmir militants meet their match in Israeli tourists

From Richard Beeston in Jerusalem and Coomi Kapoor in Delhi

A GROUP of Israelis who recently completed their military service in an elite combat unit managed to overpower Kashmiri extremists who kidnapped them in northern India.

One Israeli was killed, three were injured and another was missing yesterday after the Israelis turned on their kidnappers as they were being led into captivity, wrestled guns away from them and opened fire, police said, moments before they were to be shot. One of the survivors said yesterday: "We simply fell on them".

Speaking from hospital in the Kashmiri capital, Srinagar, where he is recovering from a leg wound, Kobi Shemesh told Israel radio that six Muslims armed with AK47 assault rifles and grenades seized the group of six Israeli men, one woman and a Dutch woman tourist on Wednesday night from their houseboat on Dal lake. The women were allowed to go free, but the men were led away to a suburb of Srinagar.

"They kept asking us all sorts of questions and promised that nothing would happen to us," said Mr Shemesh. "They decided they would not hurt us because we were tourists, but after they found out we were Jews they had to kill us."

"They tied our hands and put us against the wall... They gave us several minutes to talk among ourselves... They said: 'These are your last minutes alive'... They all stood in front of us... We were very scared but we understood that we had to free ourselves. One had succeeded in shooting one of the gunmen by taking his gun and he killed another. One of our guys succeeded in bludgeoning the face of one of them... It was a horrible and unpleasant experience."

In the ensuing fight an Israeli identified as Erez Kahana, aged 22, and two Muslim abductors were killed. Police were searching yesterday for Yitzhak Yair, still listed as missing, who is presumed to have been captured by the Kashmiri separatists.

Three Israelis were wounded in the gun battle.

The choice that led to conflict

By David Watts

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

KASHMIR'S problems began in 1947 when the last ruling prince, Maharajah Hari Singh, abandoned his dream of independence and opted for accession to India at the urging of Pandit Nehru and Lord Mountbatten as governor. A more pragmatic choice, given the Muslim majority, would have been to join Pakistan.

At the end of the first Indo-Pakistan war, the present line of control that separates the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir from Azad (free) Kashmir in Pakistan was set up. By the third Indo-Pakistan war of 1971 the two countries were locked in exchanges over which had wronged which in the 1940s, with Pakistan contending that it had abided scrupulously by UN resolutions. India contends that the Simla pact, signed the following year after the Bangladesh war, superseded UN resolutions. India now believes that it must retain Kashmir, because to allow it to secede would invite the break-up of the country.

including Mr Shemesh. The four Israelis who managed to escape forced their way into the home of a nearby Muslim cleric to call for help and later handed the Indian police three captured rifles and a grenade. The Israeli government yesterday ordered all its nationals out of Kashmir and reports from the region said that 62 Israeli tourists also holidaying on the lake were evacuated under armed guard.

The 100-odd tourists in this once tranquil tourist paradise are in a state of panic. In Srinagar the police have been making regular announcements on loudspeakers telling all foreigners to report immediately to the heavily guarded tourist reception centre. Kashmir used to be one of India's main tourist areas, but increasing violence has largely halted tourism. The Israelis were part of a rare batch of 250 foreign tourists, 90 of whom had already left Kashmir.

Algerian opposition under fire

Tunis — The Algerian army has stepped up its campaign to subdue the country's powerful fundamentalist opposition (Penny Gibbins writes).

Seventeen people are now reported to have been killed in clashes between government forces and fundamentalists in the past few days. With tanks and troops positioned across Algiers, the military has warned the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front that firm measures will be taken against militants attempting to disturb public order during prayers today. Parents were told to keep their children away from professional agitators and attend only their local mosques.

Drug executions

Peking — China has executed at least 27 drug traffickers in the south, apparently in the first wave of a newly launched "people's war" aimed at wiping out China's drug problem in the next two to three years, the *People's Daily* newspaper reported. (AFP)

Evasive action

Tokyo — More than 1,700 Japanese firms held their annual shareholders' meetings simultaneously in an attempt to throw off gangster groups which threaten to disrupt proceedings unless they are paid to keep quiet. Thousands of police were deployed to prevent trouble. (Reuters)

100 detained

Karachi — Police have detained more than 100 opposition leaders, including two provincial ministers, in Jacobabad, in the southern Pakistan province of Sindh. Officials said. The detainees, held for carrying illegal arms, had been to an opposition rally for tomorrow's Jacobabad by-election. (AFP)

Offer rejected

Seoul — North Korea has rejected South Korea's proposal to resume dialogue, accusing Seoul of being an "anti-unification" entity. Pyongyang radio said. (AFP)

Bare facts

Rotterdam — After months of cavorting in front of zoogers, Lars the baby male polar bear has been found to be a female. A spokesman said: "In the beginning, we apparently saw something that wasn't there." (AP)

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VS 4	Ch. Gascot-Bages (Pauillac)	1987	90.00	80
VS 5	Ch. Karam-Gros (Mazillac)	1987	121.80	112
VS 6	Ch. Grand-Fort-Lacoste (Pauillac)	1987	126.00	116
VS 7	Ch. Seguin (Cotes de Bourg) F.R.	1986	54.20	45
VS 8	Ch. Almon (Fronsac) F.R.	1986	59.40	48
VS 9	Ch. Pons (Medoc) F.R.	1986	61.00	52
VS 10	Ch. Macquart-St. Georges (St. Georges-St. Emilion) F.R.	1986	67.20	55
VS 11	Ch. Gumbert (Lalande-Pomerol) F.R.	1986	84.40	68
VS 12	Ch. Neim (Fronsac)	1986	147.00	123
VS 13	Ch. Lalande-Pomerol (Lalande, Medoc)	1985	151.20	125
VS 14	Ch. Godefridi-Michard (St. Emilion)	1985	160.80	132
VS 15	Ch. Chever-Pons (Cotes de Bourg)	1985	102.60	85
VS 16	Ch. Pons (St. Estephe)	1985	120.60	97
VS 17	Ch. Lalande-Pomerol (Lalande, Medoc)	1985	130.20	105
VS 18	Ch. Chever-Pons (Cotes de Bourg)	1985	101.40	84
VS 19	Ch. Pons (Cotes de Bourg)	1985	173.00	149
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VS 22	Somerset 'Le Marquis' (Cote de Vaux) (Somerset), Loire	1989/90	91.20	78
VS 23	Chateau de la Roche (Bordeaux)	1987	108.00	95
VS 24	Chateau 'Le Val' (Bordeaux)	1989/90	134.80	118
VS 25	Chateau de la Roche (Bordeaux)	1986	147.00	125

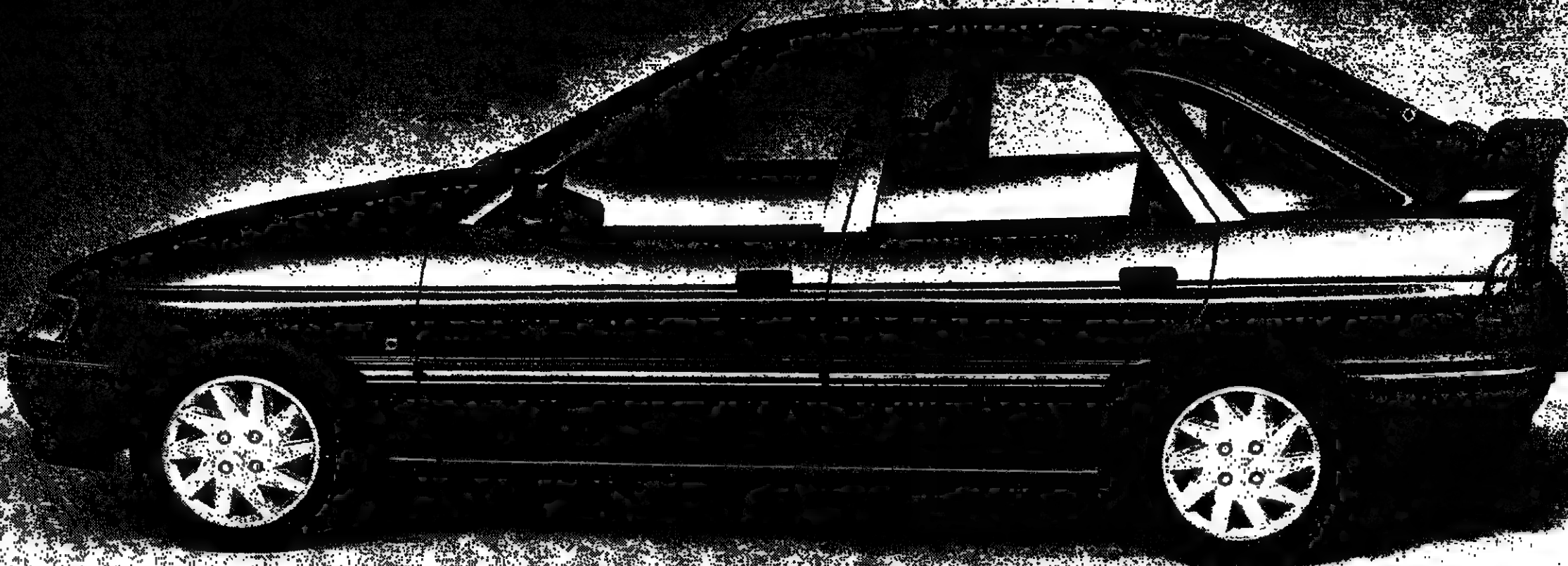
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Galleries: Shows marking the 400th anniversary of Guercino's birth, seen by John Russell Taylor

Squinting at splendour fit for the king

The tremendous popularity enjoyed by Guercino in Britain from his own time up to the middle of the 19th century is perhaps odd. Though eagerly sought after to become court painter to Charles I, Guercino resolutely refused to come anywhere near London, the home, as he had heard, of unregenerate Protestants and bad weather. The British did not hold these Bolognese vapours against him; in due course his nephew Benedetto Gennari came to take up the same position at the court of James II. Thereafter, Guercino was among the most avidly collected of 17th century Italian painters until Ruskin blasted them out of the picture in favour of pre-Raphaelites.

That came too late to prevent vast numbers of Guercinos from entering Britain, though after Ruskin a certain number departed again, mostly westward. Even so, the Royal Collection holds more than 800 drawings, most of them genuine (since Guercino was so overwhelmingly popular there were many almost contemporary *falsarii*). It has been able to lend more than a hundred to the British Museum show, *Drawings by Guercino from British Collections*, as well as lending 200 to the United States.

Naturally there are not so many important paintings still available for the National Gallery show *Guercino in Britain*. But the 28 assembled give an admirably coherent view of his career, as well as providing an appetising foretaste for some of the giant show in Bologna in the autumn. Nor is this all: small as it is, the show of Guercino and Benedetto Gennari at Richard L. Feigen actually fills in a couple of gaps, with what is said to be his only still-life and a self-portrait boldly displaying the squint that gave Giovanni Francesco Barbieri the

nickname, *Il Guercino* ("squint-eyed"), by which he is known.

To see so much of Guercino at once, and to confirm so graphically Britain's ability to celebrate in style the 400th anniversary of his birth, is marvellous. The first impression is that the two big shows present very different visions of Guercino's career. At the National Gallery the hang is largely chronological, enabling us to observe the seemingly inevitable development of his style from the dark-toned, Mannerist compositions of his youth to a much lighter, subtler style with more classical concern for balance and tonal gradation. At the British Museum, by contrast, we might be sampling several different artists.

To an extent this can be explained by the different requirements of the finished, usually commissioned painting and the more improvisatory drawing. Many drawings are sketches or studies for paintings in hand, and naturally look more like the works they contributed towards. Even so, they show how experimental was his approach to any problem. Especially revealing are the groups of drawings on a particular subject, such as *The Assassination of Amnon* or *The Feast of Absalom* where the subject is re-conceived in many different lights before a final interpretation is chosen.

The show also contains types of drawing which have virtually no counterpart in Guercino's painted works. He hardly ever painted pure landscapes. But among the drawings there are hundreds of landscapes, nearly all delicately rendered in pure ink line. The assumption is that Guercino did these for his own satisfaction.

The other sorts of drawing which seem to reflect personal compulsion are the caricature and grotesque. Here, Guercino reveals a sharp eye for oddity and a sense of the absurd which, if not exactly sunny, at least introduces humour into his often severe and savage world. The qualities of his draughtsmanship, however applied, are so extraordinary that even a collection of 800 does



One of the greatest ever draughtsmen: *Cupid restraining Mars*, by Guercino, at the British Museum

not seem excessive. Visitors to the British Museum will encounter one of the greatest ever wielders of pen and pencil, chalk and wash.

But Guercino was, in his own estimation, a painter above all. He was, moreover, an extremely businesslike painter. At the National Gallery it is possible to observe him being artistically frugal, turning a detailed study for a figure of St Irene in his *St Sebastian Succoured by St Irene* in the Bologna Pinacoteca into a Sibyl by the simple substitution of book and parchment for the sponge and bowl she originally held. Part of his secret for success was clearly an

acute understanding of what was saleable.

What was saleable in 17th century Catholic Italy remained amazingly saleable in 18th century Protestant England. It is odd to imagine these emotional Counter-Reformation canvases sitting easily in a typical British aristocratic collection — especially considering that these were the works most assiduously collected. Perhaps the turbulent compositions of such paintings as *The Taking of Christ* and *Elijah Fed by Ravens* appealed to the *Wuthering Heights* side of the British character. The fact remains that, long before

the advocacy of Sir Denis Mahon, Guercino was close to British hearts. For his anniversary Britain is doing him proud.

Guercino in Britain, National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-539 3321) Mon-Sat 10am-6pm (Wed to 5pm), Sun 2-6pm, until July 31. *Drawings by Guercino from British Collections*, British Museum, Gt Russell Street, WC1 (071-323 8525) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until August 18. *Guercino and Benedetto Gennari*, Richard L. Feigen, 6 Ryder Street, SW1 (071-390 0020) Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until July 26.

BRIEFING

Wrong notes

SCOTTISH Opera, already grappling with an accumulated deficit of £600,000, faces further uncertainty as a result of Richard Mantle's resignation as managing director at the end of May. First, management and staff registered a vote of no-confidence in the chairman of the board, Sir Gerald Elliot, and his deputy Sandy Orr. Then the Secretary of State for Scotland was approached to see if he could duplicate the magic of his Welsh counterpart, who came up with Welsh Office funds to bail out the financially-strapped Welsh National Opera. "Discussions are still continuing with the Secretary of State for Scotland," says Richard Jarman, interim managing director of Scottish Opera. "We are clearly pressing for similar treatment to that which Welsh National Opera got." However, it is highly unlikely that the Scottish Arts Council will manage any increase of its £3.86 million annual subsidy to its biggest client.

More blood

AFTER scaring the world to death as Dr Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence of the Lambs*, Anthony Hopkins is not resting on his laurels. When he finishes his current project, the Ivory-Merchant screen version of E.M. Forster's novel *Howard's End*, Hopkins tackles *Dracula: The Untold Story*, which begins shooting in August under the direction of Francis Coppola. Winona Ryder, originally sche-



Hopkins: *Dracula* next

duled to play Al Pacino's daughter in Coppola's *The Godfather III*, is being pencilled in as the damsel in distress.

Fairground winner

LYNDON Morgans will today be presented with the 1991 Verity Barge Award for his play, *Water Music*. The award, which carries a cash prize of £1,000, was established as a permanent memorial to the work of Verity Barge, co-founder and artistic director of the Soho Theatre Company until her death ten years ago. *Water Music*, which is set in a seedy seaside fairground in the Sixties, will be published by Methuen and will be included in the Soho Theatre's future production programme.

Last chance...

IT MAY not be *Antony and Cleopatra*, but Dryden's *All for Love* is still a strong neo-classical version of the same melancholy story, well worth the attention of as fine an actress as Diana

Rigg. Only an absurd red negligée undermines the quiet power of her vulnerable, grieving queen, James Laurenceon is her Antony, while Angela Down plays Octavia. The run ends at the Almeida (071-359 4404) tomorrow.

REVIEWS

Theatre, Television and Music
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'Fierce and wonderful'

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RECORDS: ROCK

Melancholia sounds modern

The Psychedelic Furs:
World Outside (eastwest 9031-74609-2)
Bonnie Raitt: *Luck of the Draw*
(Capitol EST 2145)
Definition Of Sound: *Love and Life: A Journey with the Chameleons* (Circa CIRCA 14)

HAVING spent a decade steadily building up to a substance level of rock 'n' roll stardom, the Psychedelic Furs took their eyes off the ball in the late Eighties. By 1989, their trademark mood of brooding melancholia had reached stifling proportions on *Book of Days*, a courageous album but the biggest flop of their career.

World Outside offers more of the same grainy musical textures and droning, linear arrangements, but the album is leavened by a significantly keener sense of melody and somehow pulled into focus by the context of the times. Richard Butler's decadent rasp has a familiar air of ancient mystery about it, but in other respects it is remarkable how utterly contemporary the group still sounds. Butler softly croaks his world-weary epistles while multi-layered guitar riffs mesh together in clumpy wedges of sound on the dreamy "Valentine" and the sinister "Don't Be a Girl". "In My Head" boasts especially pretty guitar curlicues, and a descending sequence redolent of the Furs' 1984 hit "Heaven".

● The Robert Gray Band featuring The Memphis Horns headlines the Capital Radio Coca-Cola Blues Festival, Crystal Palace Bowl, London SE19 on July 6. Also on the bill are John Lee Hooker, Albert Collins, John Hammond, Irma Thomas and others.

● Tributes to mark the tenth anniversary of Bob Marley's death rumble on. Musicians including the surviving members of The Wailers will gather in London on July 21 at West London Stadium, London W12 (081-963 1530) for a "One Love" festival in Marley's honour. Gregory Isaacs, Freddie McGregor, Culture and Frankie Paul are promised.

● Back with a revamped lineup, The Blue Aeroplanes are at Underworld, London NW1 (071-267 3628) on July 11 and 12. Their last album, *Swagger*, was the 1990 rock album of the year in *The Times*.

● The "Clubs in the Park" festival, in Heaton Park, Manchester (061 969 4959), will take place on August 3 and 4. The Wonder Stuff, The Beautiful South and The Soup Dragons feature on August 3. Electronic, Happy Mondays, De La Soul and A Certain Ratio head the bill on August 4.

The staggering success of Bonnie Raitt's last album, *Nick of Time* (three million sold in America alone), came as a surprise to artist and industry alike. A singer and slide guitarist in her early forties, with a distinguished but not conspicuously successful career behind her, suddenly became a hot property.

Luck of the Draw is a self-conscious attempt to cater for an audience which, ironically, she only located in the first place by paying no heed to such market-driven imperatives. Co-produced with Don Was, and boasting contribu-

tions from session luminaries such as Paul Brady, Bruce Hornsby, Jeff Portaro and the Tower Of Power horns, *Luck of the Draw* is a high-class, moderately rosy endeavour that founders on several sticky ballads. Her natural talent for bluesy shouts such as "Papa Come Quick" or John Hiatt's barnstorming "No Business" is undermined by dull material such as "I Can't Make You Love Me" and "Slow Ride". Richard Thompson plays guitar on several tracks brilliantly, of course.

Touted as an Anglo equivalent of De La Soul, London-

based rappers Definition Of Sound are the current great hope of British dance music. Their debut album *Love and Life: A Journey with the Chameleons* betrays a pleasingly catholic approach, with influences (and sample sources) ranging from Van Morrison to Big Daddy Kane. Clever, varied and frequently cute, as demonstrated by their recent hit "Wear Your Love Like Heaven", the album bowls along with an easy grace, but lacks De La Soul's whimsical charm.

DAVID SINCLAIR

PETER HALL COMPANY PLAYHOUSE

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JOHN PETER, SUNDAY TIMES

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' *The Rose Tattoo*

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JACK PINKER, DAILY MAIL
"PETER HALL'S HAUNTING AND HEART-BREAKINGLY HILARIOUS PRODUCTION"
JOHN PETER, SUNDAY TIMES

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Philip Howard

The power or poison of federalism is in the ear of the beholder

Not all arguments are merely about words (as if words were mere or unimportant). Some are about big principles as well. And this is partly true of the argument about a federal European Community that divides Edward Heath and Margaret Thatcher, the Conservative Party, and other more important people. But it is not just about big principle. Pride, and pique, and petty-minded xenophobia come into it as well. And so do mere words. As Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, said: "The use of the word federal is a fairly basic difficulty, even though it means something different in English and in French." No words translate exactly from one language into another, because every word in every language carries its baggage of history and connotation on its back.

This is certainly true of federal, which is a political word loaded down with value judgments, depending on where you are standing. If you are standing in the Federal Republic of Germany, which has now grown to the *Deutsches Reich*, or in Switzerland, which uses the word *confederation* in its official name in all its federal languages, you think of federation as one of the best things in a shifting world. For you federal is a strongly positive and comforting adjective.

If you are standing in the United States or Canada, which are both federations, federal is a pro-word, a word in a white hat with celebratory overtones, affected by different histories. In 1781 the 13 original American colonies adopted the Articles of Confederation, which bound them together in a league (another in this nest of federate words) until 1789, when the ratified constitution established a stronger federal government. At the Jefferson birthday celebration on April 13, 1830, President Andrew Jackson proposed the famous toast: "Our Federal Union, it must be preserved." A generation later a terrible war was fought to preserve this federal government. It is linguistically interesting that the southern states tinkered with the name, and in 1861 formed a confederacy, which was thought to be a rather different association, giving more rights to individual states, than a federal constitution.

There is neither magic nor poison in the roots of the federal word. Its origins are positive. It comes from the Latin *fides* faith and *foedus* to have trust in someone. From this came *foedus* a treaty, to be distinguished from the adjective *foedus*, which means foul, loathsome, ghastly, unclean. Perhaps Mrs Thatcher and other Eurosceptics and Eurosceptors are showing an unexpected interest in Latin puns by mistaking *foedus* disgusting for *foedus* a treaty.

By the accidents of history, England went in for conquests and being conquered rather than federation, and chose as its word union, as in the United Kingdom. Looking at it linguistically, which means looking at it in part historically, in the union the separate states tend to surrender more individual sovereignty than they do in a federation, and much more than they do in a confederation, coalition, or alliance.

Federation and federal sound a bit foreign. That is why Eurosceptics and other jingos can use them as emotive words to stir up loathing and contempt. But there is nothing inherently wicked in the word or the idea of federation. All that it means is that one trusts and works with like-minded allies. This is a sensible way to go about public and private life. It is also sensible that all parties to a federation agree on the small print about the amount of sovereignty they are surrendering to the greater good.

Potter and Randle exemplify the Sixties' naive individualism and fashionable ignorance, Janet Daley says

Something in the air



Children of the revolution: Patrick Potter (left) and Michael Randle

What exactly was it that Patrick Potter and Michael Randle thought they were about, all those years ago? To understand what they felt then (and, apparently, still feel, as they are remarkably unrepentant), it is necessary to transport ourselves back to that era of ecstatic innocence in which they committed their crime. If their trial is not to have been an utterly futile exercise, we can at least let it illuminate the dangerous borderland where idealism meets arrogance.

Let us leave aside the question of whether it was sensible to try a pair of glib amateurs for an adventure of 25 years ago. Once the case had come to court, it became a duel between the rule of law and the cult of private conscience in which Randle and Potter were immersed, along with many others, in the Sixties. An impressionable jury was invited to see the law as an officious obstacle to personal moral development. The fact that the prosecuting counsel made no closing address to counter the effect of the defendants' rhetoric meant that the argument was lost by default.

And so a dozen people, most of them too young to remember either George Blake or the conventional wisdom of a generation ago which produced Potter and Randle's kind of hubris, were not reminded that in a democratic society (such as the one which Blake took such great risks to undermine), respect for the law is a guarantee of freedom. Instead, they were urged to ignore "legal mumbo jumbo", to flout the meaning of the words "guilty" and "innocent", and to vindicate the deliverance of a man responsible for the deaths of dozens of his own countrymen.

They might have demonstrated their doubts about bringing such a belated prosecution by finding the men guilty but requesting leniency, in effect inviting the judge to give a suspended sentence. But they took the much more seductive path offered by the romantic hyperbole of the defendants. They would "keep the lamp of freedom burning

and shining" by pitting their "humanity" against the "legal technicalities".

But it was no technicality on which they were advised they must convict. To refuse to find the two men guilty was to fly in the face of reason. They had admitted their guilt. The only question which remained was whether their act was justified by

moral considerations which transcended the law. For Potter and Randle, those transfiguring principles were "compassion" and "fairness". Blake had been given a cruel and inhuman punishment which was motivated by the "paranoia about communism" which was rife in the Fifties. The ending of the cold war makes all of the espionage industry seem, in

retrospect, to be farcical, and yet here were they being tried as a footnote to it.

When feeling compassion for Blake's plight, did these two ask themselves what had happened to all those British agents Blake had handed over to the Soviets? Did they imagine that the KGB had called them in for counselling? To this kind of question, they reply with effusions of moral relativism: both sides of the cold war espionage racket were "obscene". As Potter said in court, "We all have blood on our hands." Oh dear, yes, but some of us have considerably more of it than others.

The ending of the cold war certainly has made the spy business somewhat redundant (at least for the moment) but hasn't it also told us something about the extent of the repression to which the eastern European and Soviet populations had been subjected? Can Potter and Randle still talk glibly about anti-communist

"paranoia", now that we know what we do about the Stalinist regimes of the Fifties? The East Germany to which Randle delivered Blake is totally discredited, its memory a salutary tale of how long a despotic regime can survive if it is sufficiently despotic. But what a breathtaking exploit it must have been to smuggle him there in the back of the van, convinced that you were the Lone Ranger fighting for truth and justice.

In 1966, it was a commonplace among educated liberals to say that there was little difference between western economic imperialism and the more straightforward military kind deployed by the Soviet Union, and it followed that there was precious little difference between the KGB and the CIA.

Now the wall is down and the gaps in our understanding are filled. There may be little need for spying anymore but can't we see even more clearly why there was a need for it then? Which goes to show precisely how dangerous it is to assume that your own moral instincts justify subverting the law: you just might be acting out of fashionable ignorance.

Mary Dejevsky on how the Soviet president outwitted his enemies and kept true to his vision of change

Not for the first time, confined Russians are asking the real Mikhail Gorbachev to stand up. Over the long winter, the army ventured to the walls of the Kremlin, and there were times when hardliners seemed on the threshold of power with a grim-faced Mr Gorbachev at their head. But in the spring, the democrats came out of hibernation to find another Mr Gorbachev, half-smiling, receiving them.

He quietly attended a concert in memory of Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, and admitted that he had been secretly talking to the West about economic assistance. Now, in the heat of the early Moscow summer, he has publicly lambasted the conservatives, and re-aligned himself with his former rival, Boris Yeltsin.

How long, people are asking, will he maintain the present course? Is this latest U-turn for real? Even to pose such a question does Mr Gorbachev an injustice. Those who despaired of ever seeing their president's democratic face again and who now hail his "conversion" were concentrating on his words, not his deeds. All the evidence suggests that through the winter Mr Gorbachev played — perhaps was forced to play — an elaborate game. Sometimes he came perilously close to succumbing to the ways of his opponents; sometimes he nearly lost power. Some close and influential friends deserted him. But he kept faith with his vision of change.

This is not a popular view, especially in Moscow's democratic circles. The objections come thick and fast. What of the extra clout given to the police and KGB, what of the president's extra powers, what of the persecution of Eduard Shevardnadze from the foreign ministry, the bounding of Boris Yeltsin and the

harm inflicted on glasnost? What, above all, about the killings in the Baltic? With the single exception of the Baltic tragedies there was much huffing and puffing, much outward show, but very little real substance.

The reorganisation of the interior ministry in November ousted a reputed liberal (Vadim Bakatin) and brought in two reputed hardliners (Boris Pugo and Boris Gromov). Mr Bakatin is now in the president's new security council, and stood unsuccessfully for the Russian presidency.

The personnel changes achieved much publicity, and a phenomenon called "joint police and army patrols" in major cities, which were afterwards ruled unconstitutional and were always largely invisible.

Mr Gorbachev's much publicised loss of senior reformist advisers never happened. True, he was denounced by the hot-tempered Academician Stanislav Shatalin, co-author of the 500-day programme, and Nikolai Petrakov, another economic adviser, ventured sharp public criticism. But Mr Petrakov, like the glasnost guru Aleksandr Yakovlev, did not leave office. Mr Gorbachev brought other, more conventional, types to the fore, but he protected his own.

The supposed purge of central television took a limited and very temporary toll. The pioneering *Vzglyad* programme, which became a symbol of the purge, is back on air. The independent interfax news agency, evicted by Moscow radio, moved smoothly into new offices (as smoothly as anyone in Moscow moves into new offices) and the ousted television presenters have new jobs. Most now work for the Russian Federation's own television channel, which opened in April and offers the first real alternative news in the history of Soviet television. Russian tele-



A hard line on hardliners: Mikhail Gorbachev may have made his last U-turn, and found independence

vision is flourishing. Mr Gorbachev's public threat to suspend press freedom never took effect.

Even when he issued it before a shocked parliament, the threat seemed somehow rehearsed, as though he was speaking from an agreed script. Subsequently, the proposal was lost in the labyrinth of parliamentary committees. It frightened a few editors for a week or so, but all the independent newspapers continued to publish without a break. They bought paper, denounced Mr Gorbachev, and remained on sale. Economically, they are stronger than the erstwhile of-

ficial press, which is suddenly having to survive in a market for which it is not equipped.

The killings in Lithuania and Latvia, and Mr Gorbachev's failure either to apologise for them or justify them, are the single piece of tangible evidence for the Soviet leader's supposed "turn to the right". They remain on his conscience and they cannot be undone. It is not sufficient for Mr Gorbachev or his officials to say that the deaths were a mistake. Troops and tanks are not called out by mistake. If it was a mistake then a section of the army was out of his control. It is not sufficient to say that they

were the product of particular circumstances, as the chairman of parliament, Anatoly Lukyanov, has done. And it is plainly defamatory to say, as the chief procurator did in his interim report, that the victims had only themselves to blame.

And yet, the democratically elected governments in the Baltic are still in place, however much the Soviet leader evidently dislikes them. They, and Western opinion, together proved strong enough to prevent the hardliners' coup that was evidently in preparation.

Had they not been so strong, Mr Gorbachev might have fol-

lowed the crowd and given the coup his blessing. The resentment of the hardliners over his "broken promise" to support them suggests that Mr Shevardnadze's talk of dictatorship in his resignation speech was a recognition of that danger.

Those who still want to keep the Baltics in check are not strong enough to do more than skirmish over such plainly illegal and anti-constitutional acts (in Soviet terms) as the establishment of republic customs posts. And the question of the troops in the Vilnius television tower is still unresolved.

Of course, none of this means that Mr Gorbachev's vision of the future Soviet Union is feasible, desirable, or worthy of massive Western support. There is a serious question about whether the Soviet Union should be kept together if its constituent parts want to function by themselves. There is an equally serious question about Mr Gorbachev's insistence on its "socialist" orientation, given the Russian voters' hearty rejection of the communists in the presidential election. And a question mark hangs over his commitment to such necessary reforms as privatisation.

But the Soviet leader is neither a tyrant nor a dictator, and in the history of post-revolutionary Russia this is saying much. The most damaging charges against him relate to weakness and indecision. Even these, however, may not be justified.

Over the winter, Mr Gorbachev used the additional powers he had wrested from parliament only to issue decrees which were by-and-large ignored. He consistently rejected appeals for a state of emergency or martial law. With hindsight, it is possible to argue that Mr Gorbachev's main purpose in taking those additional powers was not to use them himself, but to ensure that no one else could use them. If that is true, his denunciation of the conservatives last week was not his latest U-turn, but a declaration of independence.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

As I write, it is Thursday, and what I want to know is, does the Provost of Leicester feel the same way as I do this morning? Or the Lord Lieutenant of Lochaber, or Vice-Admiral Sir Roy Halliday, or Lady Rachel Pepsy, Lady in Waiting to the late Princess Marina, or the Chief Constable of Central Scotland? Do they all feel BAD?

Possibly, since our eclectic titling notwithstanding, today we all share one thing. We share today. It is, as *Times* readers may have spotted, our birthday. We are, conjointly, 377, and if some of us are feeling even older, that is almost certainly the result of BAD.

BAD, as those same readers of yesterday's *Times* will also have twigged, is Birthday Affective Disorder. They will have twigged it from reading Victoria McKee's dispiriting article "Feeling Under the Weather?", which, although it was ostensibly only about SAD and MAD, was actually about BAD, too, though Victoria did not know this at the time and, if she had, she might not have written it at all, because reading about SAD and MAD rapidly brings on BAD.

To re-cap, SAD is Seasonal Affective Disorder, which means feeling lousy during the summer, and MAD is Major Affective Disorder, which means feeling even lousier. Neither has been called this for long, mind, although people may well have been suffering from it for aeons; but this is the Age of Nomenclature, and no one can feel lousier any more without that lousiness

immediately being popped into a jar and acronymised.

How, then, do you get BAD? You get BAD from other people being nice to you, an irony it shares with a number of even less savoury diseases. For, if my co-natalities are anything like me, they did not spring up this morning and immediately begin provoking Leicester or dusting Central Scotland for fingerprints, the way they have to on other mornings, they stayed snug in bed and were brought kippers, toast, cards, presents, and newspapers.

For a time, they felt terrific. Then the first four boons were cleared away, their pillows were plumped for them, and they settled back for that unique annual luxury, a morning with the papers.

It is a transitional moment. Up until then, all has been good, but now the good is about to exit, pursued by a bear. The bear is BAD. Because there can be no worse time than a birthday for having nothing to do but trawl a pile of newsprint. No matter how mollified by kippers, gifts, buoyant rhymes, tender loving care and the constant reassurance that the best is yet to come, the birthday spirit cannot but be hypersensitised by the date to an awareness of its inescapable downside, and when that happens, newspapers have an uncanny knack of reminding you just that Time's winged chariot has just hurried a year nearer.

Especially because you have time to light on those tiny down-columen stories which the exigencies of unbirthdays preclude

you from noticing. I cannot remember a birthday on which there was not one such lurking to bring on an acute attack of BAD, and today's was no exception. Already suffering, thanks to the season of my birth, from SAD and MAD, I then got BAD.

Now, while I cannot guess what might have spooked the others into glumness at what their reducing future might deprive them of — the chief constable might have spotted the record crime figures and wondered gloomily if he would ever live to see them fall, Lady Rachel might have looked up from her sports pages to speculate moodily as to whether she would ever see Wimbledon decorum return to how it was when she accompanied its gracious patronne thither — I know what nalled me to the bedhead.

IRAS F1022144-4724 had been discovered. It is the brightest object in the universe. It is so bright that nobody knows what it is. Normally, on an unbirthday, I would just shrug this off as one more thing I would never be smart enough to begin to understand, and forget it. Not today: today I note that it is 16,000,000 light years away, so we cannot say we don't know what it is, all we can say is that we don't know what it was, because it might not be any more.

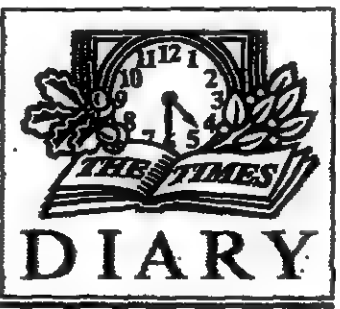
Today, what is borne in upon me is that I shall not be around to find out whether it is. For, if it is still there in 16,000,000 light years' time, people will know that it was around today; but I shall not, and, I tell you, that's a BAD feeling.

An ism of their own

What's in an "ism"? John Major did not unveil a comprehensive philosophy of "Majorism" yesterday. Indeed, at a time when other politicians seem to feel an overwhelming urge to invent them, Major refreshingly claimed in his address to the Conservative women's conference in London that he did not believe in "isms".

Major was always an unlikely candidate for such neologism (there it is again), as the first recorded reference to Majorism recognised. In December 1988, when he was not even Chancellor but chief secretary to the Treasury, *The Times* wrote: "Majorism, it seems, like socialism, is the language of priorities. Consistency of policy, steadiness of aim, figure largely." Hardly the stuff of profound philosophy, and his campaign for the Tory leadership did little to change that perception. "Majorism stands for almost no

change at all," the paper's economics editor wrote two days before Major became prime minister. But perhaps the "ism" is fitting. If Majorism means nothing more



than a return to the old consensus. After all, the first two politicians to have their own "isms" were the very epitome of non-ideology — R.A. Butler and Hugh Gaitskell, who gave birth to the Tweedledum and Tweedledee philosophy of "Butskellism".

Churchill gave us "Churchillism" but never "Churchillism". The other seven post-war prime ministers were all equally unsuitable candidates for their own "isms", leaving Mrs Thatcher alone as the creator of her own distinctive prime ministerial philosophy. And who first coined the word Thatcherism? None other than *Marxism Today* (a magazine now desperately seeking a name change to shed its own outdated "ism") in a January 1979 article by Professor Stuart Hall.

Bars for Blake

He return to the news of the spy George Blake has revived happy memories for Sir Roger Falk. Now in his eighties, Sir Roger was Blake's prison visitor at Wormwood Scrubs. "I visited him 50 times. He was sprung a few days after my last visit," says Sir Roger, who was chairman of the prison visitors' board at the time and was knighted three years after Blake's escape.

The two got on well and shortly after the escape Sir Roger took Blake's records out of the prison visitors' record book. "Written across the top, in typically British understatement it said: 'George Blake escapes.' It is a scruffy little document but one that I cherish." The friendship was based on discussing metaphysical poetry and philosophy — "anything but treason," says Sir Roger. He smuggled a bar of Bourville plain chocolate to the spy on every visit. Shortly after Michael Randle and Patrick Potter called on Blake in Moscow, Sir Roger received a letter from Blake. "I hope my escape did not lead to any difficulties for you," the spy wrote. "In view of all the circumstances I can honestly say I have been extraordinarily lucky." He's not the only one.

Lost and found

Save Britain's Heritage has launched "the crumbling heritage hunt", a search to uncover every dilapidated historic building in the country. "We want people to keep a camera with them wherever they go and send us photographs of decaying historic buildings in urgent need of repair," says Marianne Watson-Smyth of Save. The senders of the 12 best — or worst — examples will receive a bottle of champagne. "There will also be a prize for the person with the longest list of entries and another for the most unusual," says Save. Then, in a

kind of massive heritage Exchange and Mart, the group plans to turn itself into a kind of heritage adoption agency by matching its list of neglected buildings against its register of potential owners looking for historic buildings to restore.

When is an opening not an opening? When it is at the new Sainsbury wing of the National Gallery. Yesterday saw a private viewing for friends of the Sainsbury brothers, John, Timothy and Simon, the latest in a long line of sneak previews. Before that there had been three viewings for the specialist press. Diarists and general reporters will get a look on Monday week, the day before the Queen officially opens the wing. Doors will finally be open to the public on July 9 — that is, of course, if there is anyone left who has not seen it by then.

Green field sight

Sometimes you have to take friends where you find them. The British Green Party has rushed to become the first party to recognise the new independent government of Slovenia. Britain's greens are calling for all countries to recognise the government, which has a Green as deputy prime minister.

An independent Slovenia is in line with the green belief that Europe should develop into a federation of autonomous regions. It is a belief shared by Leo Sesserko, the Slovenian deputy prime minister.

The party denies that promoting such autonomy could lead to bloodshed, saying that responsibility for any fighting would lie with those governments that oppose it. The party, which acts in accordance with European green policy, goes on to make the point that 88 per cent of Slovenians polled want the country to enjoy independence.



FLIRTING WITH PLATTITUDES

Summer is supposedly here and politicians are getting jumpy. As usual, the Conservative party is criticising its leaders for "not getting the message across". As usual, Labour is murmuring that its leaders are good at nothing else. The government is feeling customary pre-election campaign panic and the prime minister is feeling the customary post-honeymoon blues. It is a wonder the country is governed at all.

John Major yesterday took his troubles to the Conservative women's conference in what was initially billed as a seminal policy speech of Majorism. Somewhere along the way, he clearly abandoned such ambition. He has a big weekend ahead in Luxembourg. He is having trouble putting flesh on the bones of his pet project, the Citizen's Charter. He decided to play safe with a polished turn of cliché. All -isms are now to be announced in favour of the greatest non-ism of politics, Conservatism. The speech could have been uttered by Edward Heath or Margaret Thatcher.

With an election now postponed until next year, the coming six months are going to be a test of nerves. Mr Major's entourage will make heavy weather of his various difficulties. They fuss round him, overloading his in-tray and flicking metaphorical dust off his collar. Like him, they are still learning on the job. But the hardest lesson in politics is a sense of proportion in adversity. The only tutor is experience.

The Tories' most dangerous temptation just now is to pin their electoral future on the economy. Ministers are desperate for relief from recession and from the Treasury's imperviousness to raw politics. They gather nervously round Norman Lamont's market screens, turn away and protest with a shrug that, whatever happens, they can "pin it all on Norman". If the next election is won, the policy is vindicated. If not, the Treasury will carry the can.

That may comfort some ministers, but such abnegation is no more fair on Mr Lamont than was pinning the poll tax on Nicholas Ridley. Nor will it help Mr Major, who is reputed to be baffled at the

economy's refusal to perform to his 1990 predictions. He has no desire to be the shortest serving prime minister this century, after Bonar Law and Lord Home. And while more than half the election outcome may rest with the economy, the remainder is still worth fighting over.

Mr Major indicated yesterday that he has no intention of taking any electoral risks beyond that implied by letting Mr Lamont be so cautious. His programme is simply one of consolidating the more popular of Mrs Thatcher's reforms, such as housing and education, and limiting possible damage from others, such as the NHS reforms and privatisation of utilities, whose benefits have yet to seep into public consciousness. Yesterday he did not even mention the health service.

There is no shortage of work to do. The council tax and other reforms to local government have yet to be implemented. Hospital reform could yet devastate the doorstep canvasser. The debt footwork of Douglas Hurd in the Commons on Wednesday may not be enough to prevent unpleasant scenes over Europe, not least from Mrs Thatcher, come the December summit. Nothing is more lethal to Tory equanimity than "an issue more important than party politics". There could even be the horror of horrors, a rise in interest rates next winter to keep within the exchange-rate mechanism, before the economy and the party have had confidence boosted by further cuts.

All this is the heat of the kitchen, and Mr Major has less than a year to learn from bearing it. He is entitled to ask his party for time and tolerance for his pragmatism as he prepares it for the next election. Mrs Thatcher at six months was looking decidedly unsteady as she wrestled with Labour's public spending legacy. But Britain has been acclimatised to strong ideological leadership. The country may have welcomed a relief from this in the arrival of Mr Major. But sooner or later a declaration of more than platitudinous doctrine would be helpful, not least to Mr Major.

HIDDEN TRAPS IN EMU

The British delegation might be in buoyant mood at this morning's Luxembourg summit. There will be no ambush to force it into premature decisions on federalism and monetary union. In fact, Jacques Delors' offer to let a future British parliament take the decision on whether or not to join the final stage of monetary union may persuade John Major that his objections to an "imposed" currency have been met once and for all.

Yet when Mr Major's attention moves beyond the rhetoric of summit communiques to the articles of economic substance in Luxembourg's draft treaty on European union, he will realise that his problems over European union and economic federalism have only just begun. The gap between Britain's principles and the proposals now being presented by the Luxembourg presidency as "the prevailing drift" of the negotiations on EMU remains almost unbridgeable wide.

The Luxembourg draft attempts to create not only a monetary, but also a tax and public-spending union, imposing on all member countries an irreversible treaty commitment to abide by fiscal targets set not by their national parliaments but by the European Council of Ministers. In setting its fiscal rules the Council would vote by weighted majority, allowing any one nation's government to be over-ruled by the others, and the decisions would ultimately be backed by "appropriate penalties".

To make matters worse, the Luxembourg draft proposes putting these rules into effect from January 1994, at least four years before the ultimate decision on full-scale monetary union. If Britain signed a treaty committing itself to such a binding fiscal arrangement, the claim that Britain would preserve its parliamentary sovereignty until the final stage of EMU through the Delors compromise would be exposed as a sham.

These are precise points of disagreement over timing and substance which really

cannot be brushed aside as trivial items only for "anti-European pedants". For externally-imposed fiscal rules would be a greater infringement of national sovereignty than a purely monetary union. A parliament's ability to tax and spend as it chooses is the very bedrock of all democratic political power. Yet the pressures on Mr Major to give way will be extreme. He must not.

Germany is determined to impose legally binding fiscal rules as a condition for abandoning the mark and joining EMU. The Germans believe that without binding rules countries like Italy would become inflationary free-riders, using Europe's low interest rates to ease the costs of financing their huge budget deficits but adding to the entire community's inflationary pressures with their fiscal profligacy. Given the political record of the Italians and Greeks, the German fears seem well justified.

This will make Britain's resistance even harder to explain or justify to European partners who are less jealous of their national sovereignty and democratic institutions. The present Conservative government is proud of its record of fiscal restraint. Perhaps for different motives, a Labour government might be equally hostile to an EC fiscal ceiling imposed with the aim of disciplining Italy and Greece.

But, say the pragmatists, Britain can probably ignore such minutiae of fiscal union, as France and Italy ignore so many directives at present. Why not just sign and avoid the hassle? But the case against fiscal union, like the case against a single currency and against excessive centralisation generally, rests on a matter of principle.

The principle is that national parliaments should determine such central democratic business as levels of redistributive taxation and public spending. If the government intends to sign this away in the cause of EMU co-operation, it should explain why with crystal clarity.

SHOWDOWN IN SLOVENIA

This week's declarations of independence by the Yugoslav republics of Slovenia and Croatia were rash, but yesterday's crack-down in Slovenia by the Yugoslav army risks making the confrontation worse.

"All resistance will be crushed" said the army commander in Slovenia, General Kolesik. In a complex conflict of legitimacy, this was impossible crude. The blame for the present impasse is shared by all concerned; and there are no simple solutions. Ante Markovic, the federal prime minister, has in the past shown himself a figure of moderation, at least by Yugoslav standards. The last thing he, as a native Croat, can wish to see is the ruin of the tourist industry on which Croatia is so dependent. Yet, with British tourists being flown home, that is what his cabinet's orders to the army threaten to bring about. Even if further deaths can be avoided, the sight of tanks on the streets is already driving away countless visitors.

Western reaction too must avoid crudity. The West cannot resolve Yugoslavia's problems. Nor however, can it remain indifferent, not least since civil war would create an intolerable outflow of refugees. The European Community summit in Luxembourg should send a firm message to Yugoslavia today. It should oppose the use of military force to resolve this constitutional dispute. It should warn against a similar deployment in Croatia. In Slovenia, the troops should return to barracks as soon

as the Slovenian government gives an undertaking not to impede movement across its borders. More positively, the heads of government should state their willingness to mediate impartially between the warring parties.

Austria and Italy have already given notice of their intention to resort to the new mechanisms of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe. This requires only 12 member-states to summon a full meeting of the CSCE. Under the new CSCE rules, unless the Yugoslav government can give a satisfactory explanation of its conduct within 48 hours, such a meeting could in theory be assembled next week. Though the CSCE has no power to compel Yugoslavia (a signatory to the Paris treaty) to refrain from the use of force in Slovenia or Croatia, it can add its moral pressure to that from the summit, and might be better placed to appoint mediators.

The unpredictability of Yugoslav politics makes it all the more important that Western Europe should now be firm with Belgrade. Yugoslavia need not disintegrate totally. The interests of Serbs in Croatia are obviously a legitimate concern of both the federal and Serbian governments. But the Slovenes, Croats and other nationalities who seek greater autonomy will only be strengthened in their determination by any attempt to imitate the strong-arm tactics of Tito.

Chairmen's huge pay increases

From Mrs Rae Linnett

Sir, Mr Blyth Jenkins of the Institute of Directors assured viewers of BBC TV's *One O'Clock News* on June 25 that if they thought it was injudicious that the chairman of British Gas, Mr Robert Evans, should accept a 66 per cent rise in salary, taking it to £370,000 (report, June 22), the solution was simple and lay in the hands of the shareholders.

It is not so much simple as impossible. Suppose you are an ordinary gas shareholder willing to take up the case for dismissing Mr Evans, or at least persuading him to forgo this provocative rise until more prosperous times.

After drafting a resolution stating your case, with the expensive help of a specialised solicitor, you must then seek out 100 shareholders who each hold £100 worth of shares.

If, with perseverance, time, money, and travelling facilities at your disposal, you now have this resolution, you then obtain from the British Gas board the names and addresses of all 2.2 million shareholders, who must be circulated (with printed pre-paid postal replies) and asked to vote on the contents.

Such an undertaking would be impossible for any group of shareholders to organise. Moreover, the number of shareholders free for an annual meeting in Birmingham on a Thursday afternoon in August is so limited as to make no impact.

In any event, the board of directors of British Gas invites prominent business or professional people known to it to act as non-executive directors, and it is they who determine the chairman's salary.

Yours sincerely,

RAE LINNETT,
16 Brookside, Cambridge.
June 26.

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, With the continued increase in the number of unemployed, the recent spate of huge pay rises for directors of recently privatised firms shows how little thought this government gave to the subject. They could quite easily have included requirements for the incumbents to receive the same pay increases as they would wish on their employees.

Prior to privatisation, those now wallowing in their new-found wealth were quite happy with salaries set by the government, which were relatively modest.

I should like to see legislation to ensure that the salaries of all directors are declared in annual reports and that proposed salary increases are put before the shareholders before they are finalised rather than, as at present, a fait accompli.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR HALL,
34 Bisham Gardens, N6.
June 26.

From the Director of the

International Freedom Foundation
Sir, John Major's criticism (report, June 26) of the current round of salary rises for the senior management of many of the recently privatised industries indicates a disturbing weakness in the government's approach to the operation of industry.

A private company has no obligation towards anybody in terms of its internal salary and other structures, least of all the government. As Peter Morgan of the Institute of Directors so correctly pointed out at its recent national conference (report, April 24) the current economic downturn is a product of government, not industrial, failure. It clearly follows that the less the government has to do with private business activity the greater the latter will prosper.

Yours faithfully,
MARC GORDON, Director,
International Freedom Foundation,
Suite 500, Chesham House,
150 Regent Street, W1.
June 26.

Macleod's choice

From Mr Torquil Macleod

Sir, With today (June 26) being the 21st anniversary of my late father becoming, sadly briefly, Chancellor of the Exchequer, after Edward Heath's general election win on June 18, 1970, it is most disturbing to read John Grigg's article ("Pride comes before policy when feuds turn bloody").

My father's sole reason for refusing to serve in Sir Alec Douglas-Home's government was that he believed R. A. Butler, the best qualified candidate, should have succeeded Harold Macmillan.

Yours faithfully,
T. MACLEOD,
c/o Barclays Bank,
191 Earls Court Road, SW5.
June 26.

Treating sex offenders

From Ms Liz Dixon and others

Sir, We share the scepticism expressed by Dr Eastman and his colleagues (June 17) about the home secretary's plans for the treatment of sex offenders in prison. It is unlikely that there are sufficient numbers of trained staff to carry out such treatment; there are certainly not sufficient numbers of probation officers who, as the home secretary puts it, would be ready to take over where the prison staff left off.

There has been no consultation with our professional association over the proposed increase in work with sex offenders. No thought has been given to the needs of women

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

From Lieutenant-General Sir

Jeremy Reilly

Sir, I was encouraged, naturally, to read Sir Philip Goodhart's letter (June 25) urging reconsideration in the light of commitments of the proposal to reduce to 34 the number of British infantry battalions. There is, however, more to this intended reduction than just size and commitments. So far neither concept nor objectives — other than numbers of battalions — for the future organisation of the infantry have been spelled out.

Not surprisingly, in the absence of adequate direction, the management of change has fallen by default, for the time being at least, to a level too low to avoid interlocking attitudes or to achieve an organisational structure with inherent overall flexibility to meet the needs of nation, army and those who serve for many years to come — flexibility, that is, to expand or contract without contortion as well as to draw full advantage from the correlativity of the regular and territorial battalions of regiments.

However, whatever the shortcomings of the euphemistically titled "Options for Change" (was "Defence Review" too honest?) and its apparent outcome (based upon arbitrary budgetary and manpower ceilings rather than likely commitments and strategic concept) this review does provide opportunity to build upon the principles for the reorganisation of the infantry which the Army Council of the day accepted 29 years ago and then fumbled when implementation met controversy.

This is not such a daunting prospect and much of the serving army expects no less, seeing as it can that regiments with several regular and territorial battalions show that the infantry is half way there already. This is the nettle which today's Army Board must grasp when the director of infantry tells them soon, as he surely will, that he has not achieved consensus.

Historically, army councils have tended to exaggerate to themselves the antipathy of the army's mood towards change, their dithering indecisiveness over the mechanisation of the cavalry during the inter-war years being a good example. We really cannot afford a repetition and yet there is just such a danger if events are allowed to lead themselves where resistance is least: to the brink of another muddled compromise of limited durability just waiting to store away grief and difficulty for the future.

Orange badge abuse

From the Chief Executive of

Arthritis Care

Sir, Arthritis Care represents the largest group of people with physical disabilities in this country. We are concerned that people who walk only with pain and difficulty and who rely on their orange car badges to be able to reach shops, banks, libraries, or doctors should continue to be eligible for a badge.

We agree with the Department of Transport that abuse of orange badges should be stopped by the introduction of photographs, and through proper enforcement of the regulations, but not by narrowing the eligibility. Many people with arthritis get out of a car to meet lack of understanding, and even verbal

Gibraltar at games

From Mr N. Stevenson Pugh

Sir, I have recently been exposed for the first time to Olympic realpolitik. I found the experience disturbing.

My involvement was simply to help friends from Gibraltar put their case (for the umpteenth time in 30 years) for Olympic recognition.

This time round they were acknowledged to qualify without any ifs or buts, by territorial definition and international sporting recognition (by seven international federations against five required).

Moreover, they scotched the Spanish opposition at last by tracing it back to a political directive from Madrid to block them on all possible occasions. The Olympic charter specifically rules that national

Monetary 'anschluss'

From Mr Leonard Griffiths

Sir, Professor Hahn and Mr Weale (June 22) perform a public service by drawing attention to the similarities between our present economic problems and our return to the gold standard in the 1920s. However, it was not returning to the gold standard per se which caused the 1929 slump but returning to it at a pre-war parity which was wholly inappropriate so many years later.

Joining the ERM with sterling grossly over-valued is an almost identical blunder and may well have similar results.

In February 1991, as Anatole

Making the best of the army's mood for change

With time already lost and uncertainty too long in the air, the reins of the issue of regimental organisation should be taken up with expedition, vision and resolution.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY REILLY (Colonel),
The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers,
HM Tower of London, EC3.
June 25.

From Major-General P. M. Davies

Sir, The validity of the regimental system within the British army has been secured. That is the good news. The bad news is that the infantry is once again racked in agony over which regiments are to survive a draconian reduction in the order of battle: their stark choice is disbandment or amalgamation. Rigid numerical reductions of battalions appear to have been imposed upon each of their separate geographical divisions.

The sole realistic basis for consideration of the demise of any regiment should be the present manning and the projected sustainability of the required manning level. It should be the decision of the executive committee of the Army Board to identify those individual regiments who do not meet manning criteria and thus face disbandment.

The decision to ameliorate threatened disbandment by amalgamation with another regiment in a similar position within the same division of infantry should be a matter for the divisional Council of Colonels. Acceptance of such a decision by all concerned should be the only alternative to disbandment: to impose amalgamation with a well-manned regiment in the same division does "now" but spread the misery.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DAVIES,
c/o Army and Navy Club,
36-39 Pall Mall, SW1.
June 25.

From Mr C. R. Goodall

Sir, If Mr King follows your advice (leading article, June 20) and gives a lead to the army on its restructuring, I hope that he consults with his colleagues in the Department of the Environment about the implications for tourism, which falls outside the MoD's remit.

The future of the Household Division's current structure is apparently under consideration. Major changes, irrespective of the strength of theoretical rationale to the contrary, will undoubtedly impact on ceremonial duties and could

abuse, from passers-by who think that only those in a wheelchair can have a disability.

The one group which might be expected to have a proper understanding of the problems of the ambulant disabled is the medical profession. Yet the East Suffolk division of the BMA has nothing better to put forward as a motion to the BMA's annual representative meeting on July 2 than its belief that "the orange badge system is the most abused privilege in history".

Is the independence that mobility brings really a privilege?

Yours sincerely,
JEAN GAFFIN, Chief Executive,
Arthritis Care,
5 Grosvenor Crescent, SW1.
June 21.

Olympic associations must not comply with political directives. Nevertheless they were put off again. The Spanish president of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, described Gibraltar as a "delicate problem" and suggested reconsideration in 1993 because "there is no more room" in the Barcelona Olympic village next year.

But the mouse has roared and Gibraltar has gained the initiative. Any continuing political breaches by Spain on the fields of sport can be reported to the IOC, with the added force that the new 1991 version of the Olympic charter rules that governments of Olympic host cities must now undertake to observe the charter.

Yours faithfully,
STEVENSON PUGH,
Docton Mill, Hartland, Devon.

Kaletsky pointed out on June 19 ("American recovery has telling lessons for Britain") the Americans left the fate of the dollar entirely to the markets. This resulted in the steepest devaluation on record.

This, in turn, caused exports to surge whilst manufacturing industry was insulated from the effects of recession — almost exactly the opposite of what is happening in the United Kingdom at the present time.

Yours faithfully,
LEONARD GRIFFITHS,
Between Walls, Tredington,
Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire.
June 22.

never brought to justice, however. Offering treatment to a handful of imprisoned rapists will therefore hardly make the world a safer place for women and children. Research is important but we must also begin to tackle the misogynist and aggressive behaviour which is associated with male sexuality.

Yours etc.,
LIZ DIXON,
FRANCES MINHINNICK,
CHARLOTTE MITRA,
FIONA MORTON
(Working group on sex and violent offenders),
London Branch,
National Association of Probation Officers,
289 Borough High Street, SE1.

in time destroy the integrity of our ceremonial heritage.

As someone who has identified and verified, through detailed market research, the need for a ceremonial centre to explain the history and nature of our military pageantry, I trust that when we eventually find a suitable location we will not have to inform our visitors that our state occasions format dates from the early 1900s.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES R. GOODALL,
10 Crescent Lane, SW4.

From Sir Frederick Corfield, QC
Sir, If, as mooted, the two Household Cavalry regiments are amalgamated, can we be confident that a single regiment will be able to train both officers and other ranks as fighting soldiers if their regimental service is interrupted by ceremonial postings? Similarly, the Foot Guards clearly need a minimum number of battalions if they are to carry out their ceremonial duties and remain the splendid fighting units which they undoubtedly are.

Since it would clearly be neither sensible nor fair to inflict additional cuts on regiments of the line solely in order to maintain ceremonial capability would it not be better to meet part of the "peace dividend" by relieving the defence vote of the costs of purely ceremonial units and of an appropriate part of the costs of maintaining the Foot Guards?

These functions constitute a considerable tourist attraction while overseas visits significantly contribute to good international relations. Would it not be more appropriate for the cost to fall upon the Department of Trade and Industry and/or the Foreign Office?

Yours faithfully,
FREDERICK CORFIELD,
Wondons Orchard, Sheepscombe,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.

From Viscount Ridley

Sir, If, sadly, several famous regimental titles have to go with the reduction of the number of infantry battalions in the regular army, could they not transfer to the territorial army?

This could mean that, if the need arises to expand the army, as it probably will sooner or later, these names could be revived without too much difficulty and their identities preserved.

Yours sincerely,
RIDLLEY,
House of Lords.
June 25.

Holidays in Egypt

From Dr Mohamed Sheba el-Hamid

Sir, The *Holiday Which?* survey referred to in a report which you published on May 7 ("Egypt tops holidaymaker sickness league") was not conducted on a proper scientific or statistical basis. The type of ailment, its severity or nature was not clarified, and it was not monitored by qualified research doctors. It was based on a questionnaire, but no objective examinations had been made.

The incubation period for *Giardia lamblia* is between three days and six weeks, and the disease occurs worldwide, including advanced countries. The visitor to Luxor, whose illness was cited, could well have contracted it prior to her visit.

No serious medical cases have been reported affecting visitors to Egypt during 1991.

Yours faithfully,
MOHAMED SHEBA el-HAMID
(First Under-Secretary),
Ministry of Health,
Magles el-Shaab Street,
Cairo, Egypt.
June 18.

In the limelight

From Mrs John Temple-Smith

Sir, Your music critic's opinions must, of course, be his own ("When more means much less", Arts, June 25) but I do think he should get his facts straight. Not that it causes me all that concern, but my four black Great Danes have shown a lofty contempt at being referred to as "Scarpat's mastiffs". The Great Dane has rightly been called "the Apollo of all the breeds" and that is why my four, grandmother, mother, son and daughter, are proud to play their part each night at Earl's Court in Francesca Zambello's glorious production of *Tosca*.

Yours sincerely,
MAUREEN ANNE TEMPLE-SMITH,
Jeffcoates,
Hempton,
Deddington, Oxfordshire.
June 25.

Vain pursuit

From Mr John R. T. Miller

Sir, I applied for a modest number of shares (and received less) in the two English power companies; my name stayed in the computer. I have been mail-shot four times for the Scottish companies. I have been chivvied by television advertising (all at my expense). I apply for a modest £1,000 worth of shares. Yesterday I'm slapped in the face —

Was it all worth it?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. T. MILLER,
11 Hunters Way,
Park Hill, Croydon, Surrey.
June 18.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

School for modern scandal

MARTIN KNOX



Class barrier: Bill Thomas and Lynn Whitehead in *The Blackboard Jungle*. "I think it was privatised," says Thomas. "We're dealing with dark powers beyond our comprehension." "It's called Conservative education policy," says Whitehead.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THEATRE

The Blackboard Jungle

Royal, Stratford East

IF DARIO Fo can write angry farces about the murder of an anarchist by corrupt cops, or the kidnapping of an industrialist, why should not an Englishman have some purposeful fun at the expense of the 1988 Education Reform Act? Some thought must have gone through the head of Patrick Prior, the one-time teacher who is now the Theatre Royal's resident dramatist. That may be why his *Blackboard Jungle* gives the impression of having been jointly conceived by Ray Cooney and Dennis Skinner: the king of silly-ass comedy and the Beast of Bolsover.

Bill Thomas's Doyle is the left's horror-comic notion of the new kind of headmaster, a former spy busily destroying a school which has opted out of local authority control. His idea of education is to sack his experienced teachers while buying computers nobody can work. His energies variously go on advertising and marketing, selling off the playground, and persuading a condom company to sponsor what he calls "age-weighted pupil units", meaning the kids. He has no sympathy for colleagues struggling along with one copy of *Macbeth* and 11 children. "I didn't become a headmaster to teach," he says, not

without a certain professional pride. Prior reads plenty such bilious detail into the record during the evening. But he does also realise that he needs an entertaining plot. Thus it emerges that Doyle's computers have been stolen and are being aggressively sought by the police in the form of a resented ex-pupil. At the same time a school inspector turns out to be on the prowl, and for reasons never made clear, must not see the heart-shaped helium balloons the image-conscious Doyle has had stamped with his academy's name. Consequently, most of the evening consists of his desperate attempts to conceal incriminating evidence, helped by a cowering Paul Barber and a simpering Yvonne Edgell, caretaker and secretary respectively.

Jeff Teare's production undeniably has its moments. A scene in which Barber and Thomas inveigle Glyn Grinstead's glowering copper into singing sentimental songs at some steel drawers, on the grounds the locks are voice-activated, might have been concocted by the Fo of *Can't Pay, Won't Pay*. But most of the fun is in a less whimsical tradition. There is much inadequately motivated rushing about with boxes, many bumps and bloody noses as doors bang open and shut. The verbal humour is a bit self-consciously bright, too. "Once more into the breach, as the dirty washing said," that sort of thing.

Meanwhile, didactic quips proliferate. "Whatever happened to voca-

tion?" "I think it was privatised," says Thomas. "We're dealing with dark powers beyond our comprehension." "It's called Conservative education policy," says Whitehead.

Meanwhile, the lovely Kim, four months after castration, admits to feelings of regret. He says he feels trapped and powerless, and advises his friend Harish to keep a hold on his vital. Harish has a wife and children, but is radiant among the eunuchs, begging and flirting. Kim predicts he won't resist the appeal of castration. Anyone who enjoys dressing up like a woman, he says, will opt for castration ultimately.

Let us hope he never sees *Manhattan Cable* on television. It would be dreadful for him to discover that, in some parts of the world, the only transvestite imperative is an obligation to host your own chat show.

LYNNE TRUSS

OPERA

Così fan tutte

Teatro della Pergola, Florence

JONATHAN Miller seems to enjoy giving the Italians (as well as British opera critics) a hard time, and sometimes they respond in kind. Some feared that his updated *Tosca*—well-known at the Coliseum but born at the Maggio Musicale—implied the Church's support for the Nazis, and Christian Democrat politicians indignantly tried to censor it; the revival this year has been picketed for "profaning Puccini's masterpiece".

In Miller's new *Maggio* production of *Così fan tutte* the disguised lovers behave like grotesque parodies of preening Mediterranean manhood, which could be taken as an unkind joke at his hosts' expense. But there are no pickets, and the audience laughs a lot.

An exceptionally beautiful fixed set allows us to glimpse the torrid rooftops of Naples from the cool grey-marble seclusion of the young ladies' villa; ancient statues adorn the room, with special emphasis on the male torso. The day's events are calibrated by the constantly changing light on the terrace outside, while Sue Blane's colour-coded costumes register changes in attitude and expectation by a gradual contamination of white.

There is no whiff of "concept", the period is firmly 18th century, and Miller concentrates on detailed depiction of predicament: Fiordiligi's dreamy but intransigent idealism, for instance, is so convincingly developed that her seduction comes as a shock to us too. Lella Cuberli's well-drilled singing makes up in intensity what it lacks in ease, and her edgy Fiordiligi is contrasted with the assurance of Cecilia Bartoli's mercurial Dorabella. Frank Lapardo commands both the honeyed lyricism and the dramatic fire for Fernando but alternates abruptly between them, while Natale De Carolis's sensual, freely-produced baritone is ideal for Guglielmo. Joan Rodgers is a funny, unexaggerated Despina who has the audience hanging on her every word. In the pit, Zubin Mehta takes a leisurely, caressing approach that is sometimes at odds with the tensions being generated on stage.

NIGEL JAMIESON

Arts features, page 13

TELEVISION

Under the Sun

BBC 2

IN THIS week's *From Wimpys to Warriors* (BBC 2), a Leeds-born woman showed the camera crew around her Beverly Hills home, with the words: "You know what the Americans say. If you've got it, flash it." Watching last night's *Under the Sun*, about India's substantial population of eunuchs, it became apparent here that the "flash it" motto applies more compellingly when there is something that you *haven't* got.

Decked out in jewellery, saris and long black hair-pieces, the painted eunuchs parade down dusty streets, chattering and smiling and smacking together their hands as though summoning spirits. Tradition dictates that people give them money. But if there is the merest hesitation, the eunuchs clinch the transaction by hauling their skirts above their waists

and shouting the local equivalent of "Here, take a butcher's at this."

Unfortunately, "butcher" would be right. It was quite a while before Michael York's film answered the ghostly anatomical questions that must have lurked in many viewers' minds, but when all was revealed—within minutes of the film's close—the truth proved distressing. The answers were: a) chopped off with a knife; and b) yes, the penis was well.

Kiran, a well-born young man with lustrous eyelids who had opted for castration and cross-dressing as a means of securing the attentions of his gay lover, displayed his terrible wound and defended his reasons. To be properly cared for by a man in India, he said, you must emulate a woman. But there was a horrible possibility he had misjudged the situation. The lover seemed unimpressed by Kiran's sacrifice, and reproachfully mentioned Kiran's inability to have babies. Some men are never satisfied.

The role of the eunuch ranges from the sacred to the profane. In Rajasthan, a huge household is ruled by a

man-like guru (known as the Empress), who presides at celebrations, gives healing to babies and coolly demands hundreds of rupees for her services. In Bombay, on the other hand, the community of "sisters" is in thrall to a recumbent open-mouthed madam, who packs them off each evening to the red-light district.

Meanwhile the lovely Kiran, four months after castration, admits to feelings of regret. He says he feels trapped and powerless, and advises his friend Harish to keep a hold on his vital. Harish has a wife and children, but is radiant among the eunuchs, begging and flirting. Kim predicts he won't resist the appeal of castration. Anyone who enjoys dressing up like a woman, he says, will opt for castration ultimately.

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LYNNE TRUSS

CONCERTS

Imrat Khan/Rostropovich

Queen Elizabeth Hall/Barbican Hall

THE announcement by Imrat Khan, in the middle of his QEH recital on Wednesday, that he would be playing a rag for the monsoon season won him a chuckle of pained sympathy from an audience needing no instruction in rainy seasons. But still it was fascinating to have from him an outline of the affective, illustrative qualities of what he was about to play. Behind the rag, as he put it, we would be able to hear fresh breezes, rain-washed trees, clouds rolling by, comfort coming after the heat and dust. One imagined something like Debussy's "Jardins sous la pluie".

But his performance, on the deep-voiced subbar without accompaniment, was nothing like that. The feeling was subdued, even as it seemed elegantly, as he explored both the rag and his instrument, moving through this generally slow 40-minute performance from its gravelly bottom register to its bright top. Perhaps my interpretation is too much coloured by European codes, or perhaps his commentary could be no more than a metaphorical attempt to name the ineffable. Certainly his bearing throughout the improvisation sug-

gested meditative soulfulness more than running about in the showers. He was very different in two rag pieces played on the sitar, joined by the flapping fingers of a young tabla player whose eager alertness he gently mocked in almost erotic games of rhythmic trickery. The mood now was cheerful, radiant, but also coloured by Imrat Khan's becoming modesty. He gives the impression of one for whom listening comes before playing: the music is there in the air, and he waits for it. Or it can wait for him. The sense of the music's objectivity, that is collected and not generated, is affirmed by the short breaks he will take in the middle of some passage to dust his strings, while the music circles like a plane stacked over Heathrow.

Also, because he makes no pretence to be the music's source, he can unaffectedly share his audience's delight, as here over a sudden rush of excited octave leaps. Improvisation becomes a matter of uncovering what is already there; in slower music it can seem that he makes his way revisiting the notes of the rag to see how they are getting on, often with a particular emphasis on what in western music would be the leading note, whose sense dissonance provides the energy for the constantly renewed ambivalence of glissando in which he shows the fecundity of his imagination.

The night before, in the Barbican Hall, it was the turn of another master string player: the cellist Mstislav

Rostropovich. He too is a great listener, but where Imrat Khan's eyes and ears dance in space, Rostropovich's stare is set firmly on the conductor (here Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos), or more rarely on the leader, not so much waiting attentively for his cue as willing them to play the music his way. As perhaps they did, though the technician-glossy orchestral playing in Bloch's *Schelomo* was pretty similar to what we heard in the two works without Rostropovich: Rossini's *William Tell* overture and Stravinsky's 1919 *Firebird* suite, the latter a rhythmic symphony.

The justification for this odd assortment of pieces was a common connection with Switzerland, the concert being part of the Festival of Switzerland in Britain. At least that provided an occasion to hear Honnegger's 1939 Cello Concerto, an amiable single movement which cannot decide whether to follow Gershwin or Bach. Rostropovich relished its light inventiveness and its musing character, and seized attention, not least for his extraordinary pianissimo, even when he was notionally accompanying—though the joke of a feigned subjection of the soloist here was surely part of Honnegger's playful intention. This was, significantly, the only solo concerto by a composer who had his doubts about western Romantic egotism.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

NEW RELEASES

DEFENDING YOUR LIFE (PG): Albert Brooks as your average neurotic American, put on trial in the afterlife. Dangling, funny comedy, with Mary McCormack, Brooks also directs. Curzon West End (071-433 4000) Screen on the Hill (071-433 5300).

THE NAKED GUN 2½ — **THE BATTLE OF FEAR** (12): Leslie Nielsen returns as accident-prone Lt Frank Dreab. Rictus dead-pan comedy. With Priscilla Presley, director, David Zucker. Cannon: Baker Street (071-433 6772) Fulham Road (071-252 2633) Empire (071-437 9899) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3304).

NAVY SEALS (18): Dull, deplorable action vent about a US commando unit in the Middle East. With Charlie Sheen; director, Lewis Teague. Odexone: Kensington (071-232 6944) Swiss Cottage (071-732 5905) Warner (071-438 0781).

LA CAPTIVE DU DESERT (PG): Raymond Dardennes' antislavery study of a European woman held hostage by an African tribe. Beautiful to behold, but regrettably (071-437 9402).

CLASS ACTION (15): Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as father and daughter fighting opposite sides of a lawsuit. Fine acting; uneven script. Director, Michael Apted. Camden Parkway (071-257 7034) Plaza (071-437 6959) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3304).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PERE (U): Epicodic gale through Marcel Pagnol's childhood memories—decent, nostalgic, but excessively warm-hearted.

THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE: Patrick Prior treats British education to some rough farceful pokes. Theatre Royal Stratford East, Garry Haffes Square, E15 (081-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

BLACK BLOOD: Robin Swicord is a subtle study of a woman's sexual life in a remote village. South Bank, SE1 (071-232 2252). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, next tomorrow, 2.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm.

BLUE REMEMBERED: Seven adults play children in the first-class version of Dennis Potter's last play. Mon in the Moon, 362 King's Road, SW10 (071-301 2878). Tues-Sun, 8.30pm.

THE CARETAKER: Donald Pleasence in Pinter's classic study of a man and two women. Comedy, Pavilion Theatre, SW1 (071-887 1045). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, Sun, 2pm, 10.15pm.

CARMEN JONES: Chubby Checker's production of the Hammer/British old black musical, packed with pizzazz. Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (071-928 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, next Wed, Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

COMEDY OF ERRORS: Diamond Barri plays both twins in a first-class parody of the classic farce. Bedford, St. Street, WC1 (071-438 8881). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, next tomorrow, 2pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANNA: Brian Friel's classic comedy of a young man in a village. Phoenix, Chancery Cross Road, WC2 (071-887 1044). Mon-Sat, 8pm, next Thurs, Sun, Sat, 4pm.

DICKENS: William Gattage, edited out of the funny, the boy and the gurgles by William Gattage. Hampstead, 362 Chancery Lane, NW1 (071-732 5311). Mon-Sat, 8pm, next Sat, 8pm, 10.15pm.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT: Jason

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere. Indicated with the symbol (u) on release across the country.

THE HAIRDRESSER'S HUSBAND (12): A film of romantic obsession, memorably told by the director of *Monter Hirs*, Patrice Leconte. Jean Rochefort, Anne Galanaud. Camden Plaza (071-433 2443) Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742/3743) Gaiety (071-727 4043) Metro (071-437 0757).

THE KING OF NEW YORK (18): Christopher Walken as a ruthless hoodlum with style. Energetic thriller that finally gets out of hand; director, Abel Ferrara. Cannon: Oxford Street (071-438 0310) Pavilion Theatre (071-887 0881).

LA STORY (15): Steve Martin's weatherman finds true love in windy Los Angeles. Whimsical comedy that just misses the mark. With Victoria Tennant, director, Mick Jackson. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-252 2633) Haymarket (071-433 1527) Oxford Street (071-433 0310) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3304).

MISSISSIPPI (18): Clint Eastwood's Kathy Bates as the number one fan to murder a best-selling novelist (James Caan). Sprightly thriller from Stephen King's novel. Director, Michael Apted. Camden Parkway (071-257 7034) Plaza (071-437 6959) Whiteleys (071-732 3303/3304).

LA GLOIRE DE MON PERE (U): Epicodic gale through Marcel Pagnol's childhood memories—decent, nostalgic, but excessively warm-hearted.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London. Indicated with the symbol (u) on release across the country.

THE KING AND I: Susan Hampshire returns with David Yip. Sadler's Wells, Rosemary Avenue, EC1 (071-278 8816). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, next Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

MACBETH: Peter Woodward and Nicola McAuliffe in a study production. Open Air Theatre, Regents Park, NW1 (071-488 2431). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, next tomorrow, 2.30pm.

MATADOR: The rise of The Boy from Mexico. Good dancing and sets but a weak script. Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-438 4401). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, next Wed, Sun, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

THE PHILANTHROPIST: Captivating performance by Edward Fox in Christopher Hampton's comedy. Menier, Chancery Cross Road, WC2 (071-887 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, next Thurs, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

THE ROSE TATTOO: Julia Walters in a study production of the play by John Galsworthy. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-887 1044). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, next Thurs, Sun, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

70, GIRLS: 70 Inevitable Dots. Bryon leads the cast of apparent 10-year-olds in a general Can't & Bob musical. Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (071-438 8887). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, next Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

ROYAL LIVERPOOL PHILHARMONIC: The orchestra gives the concertmaster of a new collaboration between Carl Davis and Paul McCartney entitled *The Line of Solitude*. Includes Queen's Mary, Jenny, Sally, and Billy. Liverpool, 071-438 8887. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, next Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

WIMBORNE HALL: A weekend of recitals by some of the finest classical performers: pianist Stephen Hough (tonight, 7.30pm); German baritone Oskar (tomorrow, 7.30pm); cellist Steven Isserlis with violinist Joshua Bell (Sun, 11.30pm); and soprano Ely Aronson (Sun, 7pm).

CARMEN JONES AND THE FOUR SEASONS: David Coleman conducts the National SO, London Chorus, and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. London WC2 (071-438 0310). Tonight, 7.30pm.

YES: The words of techno reform (with a new film by John Anderson, Bill Kenwright, and Steve Howe), including a new album, *Unleash the Power of a World War*. London SW1 (071-438 0310). Tonight, 7.30pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: A highlight of the British premiere of Maurice Ravel's one-act ballet *Maeterlinck*, based on the play of the same name by Maurice Maeterlinck. London SW1 (071-438 0310). Tonight, 7.30pm.

TANGO ARABIAN: This tango show, based entirely on the tango, is proving so popular that it has been extended until September.

THE CENERENTOLA: The Royal Opera revives the Michael Falvey production of Rossini's humorous interpretation of the Cinderella story. Argentinian tenor Paul

NOT WITHOUT MY DAUGHTER (12): Sally Field as an all-American girl trying to escape the Nazis in a war-torn Europe, peopled by puppets. With Al Pacino, director, Brian Koppelman. Cannon: Fulham Road (071-252 2633) Shafesbury Avenue (071-438 0310) Plaza (071-437 0757).

THE POPE MUST DIE (12): Tired, mild comedy from the Comic Strip troupe, with Robbie Coltrane as an honest fool who is reluctantly recruited to become Pope. With Beverly D'Angelo, director, Peter Richardson. Cannon: Chelsea (071-352 5086) Odexone: Kensington (071-432 6944) Swiss Cottage (071-732 5905) West End (071-430 5252/7615).

RIFF-RAFF (15): Mervyn Horder, parody "side of life" portrait of a building-site crew from director Ken Loach. Cannon: Tottenham Court Road (071-438 0310) Screen on Baker Street (071-887 0881).

THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS (18): Jodie Foster's FBI trainee confronts Anthony Hopkins, evil, intelligent, intense, highly polished, and enigmatic killer from director Jonathan Demme. Camden Parkway (071-257 7034) Cannon: Baker Street (071-438 0310) Chelsea (071-352 5086) Kensington (071-432 6944) Leicester Square (071-430 5111) Metro (071-727 4043) Screen on the Sun (071-252 3303/3304).

WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD (12): E.M. Forster novel about the English abroad; amusing, pretty, but unsatisfactory. Starring Helena Bonham Carter, Rupert Graves, director, Charles Sturridge. Odexone: Haymarket (071-433 1527).

SILLY COWS: Ben Elton's satirical collection of one-liners, centred on a French farce. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-880 8800). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 8.15pm, Sun, 4.30pm.

THE TEMPEST: Mark Rylance's gallery, out-of-dolls troupe on the site of Shakespeare's Globe. Globe Theatre, Bankside, London SE1 (071-438 2431). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm, next tomorrow, 2.30pm.

THE GENERATION: Cui stage version of an out-of-tune song performed by two actors wearing space-hats. Menier, Chancery Cross Road, WC2 (071-887 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, next Thurs, Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm.

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WORD-WATCHING

PTOCHOCRACY (c) The rule of beggars or paupers, wholesale pauperisation, from the Greek *ptochos* a beggar + *kratos* power. "The British government is neither absolute monarchy nor limited monarchy, nor aristocracy, nor democracy, but may be called a ptochocracy or government of beggars."

THAR (c) The native name in Nepal of the goat antelope, *Naemorhedus thar*. "Thar is a massive beast, twice the size, and has suborbital stripes, and a mane along the back of the neck."

HASSAR (c) A South American nest-building, land-walking catfish (in the American sense), from the native South American Indian: "The hassar is as good a walker as the climbing perch."

RAFALE (c) A series of bursts of gunfire, also a roll of drums, from the French for a gust of wind: "The rafale, or shell-storm, is the method practised by batteries of French artillery to prevent the advance of infantry."

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Novotelnov—Christykov, Tbilisi 1949. Black to play and win.



CHICHESTER FESTIVAL 071-438 0310. 12.30, 2.30, 7.30, 9.30. 13.30, 15.30, 17.30. 18.30, 20.30, 22.30. 23.30, 25.30, 27.30. 28.30, 30.30, 32.30. 33.30, 35.30, 37.30. 38.30, 40.30, 42.30. 43.30, 45.30, 47.30. 48.30, 50.30, 52.30. 53.30, 55.30, 57.30. 58.30, 60.30, 62.30. 63.30, 65.30, 67.30. 68.30, 70.30, 72.30. 73.30, 75.30, 77.30. 78.30, 80.30, 82.30. 83.30, 85.30, 87.30. 88.30, 90.30, 92.30. 93.30, 95.30, 97.30. 98.30, 100.30, 102.30. 103.30, 105.30, 107.30. 108.30, 110.30, 112.30. 113.30, 115.30, 117.30. 118.30, 120.30, 122.30. 123.30, 125.30, 127.30. 128.30, 130.30, 132.30. 133.30, 135.30, 137.30. 138.30, 140.30, 142.30. 143.30, 145.30, 147.30. 148.30, 150.30, 152.30. 153.30, 155.30, 157.30. 158.30, 160.30, 162.30. 163.30, 165.30, 167.30. 168.30, 170.30, 172.30. 173.30, 175.30, 177.30. 178.30, 180.30, 182.30. 183.30, 185.30, 187.30. 188.30, 190.30, 192.30. 193.30, 195.30, 197.30. 198.30, 200.30, 202.30. 203.30, 205.30, 207.30. 208.30, 210.30, 212.30. 213.30, 215.30, 217.30. 218.30, 220.30, 222.30. 223.30, 225.30, 227.30. 228.30, 230.30, 232.30. 233.30, 235.30, 237.30. 238.30, 240.30, 242.30. 243.30, 245.30, 247.30. 248.30, 250.30, 252.30. 25

BBC 1

6.00 *Ceebees* 6.30 *BBC Breakfast News*
9.05 *Health UK*. In the first of a new six-part series Marilyn Lewis leaves her newscaster's desk and looks at back pain. He visits a special "back school" run by the physiotherapy department at the University Hospital of Wales where the emphasis is on educating patients about how to carry out everyday tasks without damaging their backs.



The lowdown on avoiding back pain: Marilyn Lewis (9.05am)

9.30 *Rock Against the Clock*. Documentary following heavy metal group Marillion's roadies as they clear up after a gig and drive through the night to set up the next one (r)
10.00 *News*, regional news and weather 10.05 *Playdays* (r) 10.25 *Jimbo and the Jet Set*. Cartoon (r) 10.35 *Horseback* introduced by David Vine. This morning's Arnette Ling takes pupils through their first jump on horseback (r)
11.00 *News*, regional news and weather 11.05 *Our House*. American family drama series. A neighbourhood watch is started after a burglary in the Witherspoon neighbourhood 11.55 *Reviving Annette*. A look at the difference between caring for copper and brass (r). (Ceebees)
12.00 *News*, regional news and weather 12.05 *National Geographic Special: Among the Wild Chimpanzees*. A look at the work of Jane Goodall, who has been a friend and observer of the chimpanzees of east Africa for more than a quarter of a century 12.55 *Regional News* and weather
1.00 *One O'Clock News* and weather 1.30 *Neighbours* (Ceebees)
1.50 *Wimbledon '91*. Live coverage, news and results of today's matches, introduced by Desmond Lynam. (Ceebees)
4.00 *Lifeline* Cliff Michener and Lynette Lithgow report on the latest charity news and Paul Hiney makes an appeal on behalf of Counsel and Care for the Elderly (r)
4.10 *Smoggy* (r) 4.35 *The Legend of Tim Tyler*. Episode nine of the 12-part children's drama and the Baron organises a press conference for his new protégé (r)
8.00 *Newsround* 5.10 *The Girl from Tomorrow*. Episode nine of the 12-part drama series about a girl from the year 3000 (Ceebees)
8.50 *Neighbours* (r). (Ceebees). Northern Ireland: Sportswide 5.40 *Inside Ulster*
9.00 *Six O'Clock News* with Anna Ford and Moira Stuart. Weather 9.30 *Regional News* magazines. Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 *Wogan*. The guests are Chris Eubank, Amanda Donohoe, Amelia Bullmore and Philip Madelyn. What play Des and Steph Barnes in *Coronation Street* and Oscar-nominated actor Albert Brooks. Music is provided by Chris Lee and Playas
7.48 *Fast Friends*. Last of the current series, with Lee Dawson and his lugubrious jokes spurring on the contestants in the game show where the captains select their teams from 40 "friends" to play for a luxury holiday (Ceebees)
8.18 *The Paul Daniels Magic Show*. Magical feats and illusions from the charity magician and his wife and assistant Debbie McGee, who has defied the magic circle's "no magic" rule and brought her own magic to the show. Guest are the former boxer Barry McGuigan, the sword-winning trapeze act Mouvance from Canada and the Escudra family from Las Vegas (Ceebees)
9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* with Marilyn Lewis. (Ceebees) Regional news and weather
9.30 *The Cavers*. Sturdy Australian drama about a news escapee by Japanese POWs interned in a New South Wales camp during the second world war. Captain Macdonald discovers Stan was not the only witness to his cowardice. Major Harden refuses to take warnings of a Japanese breakout seriously and Junji and his fellow prisoners face the harsh choice of survival or death. Starring Alan David Lee and Junichi Ishida
10.30 *Today at Wimbledon*. Harry Carpenter with highlights of today's play
11.30 *Film: Tilet of Hearts* (1984). Sleek, uncluttered thriller about an upwardly mobile professional thief who steals a woman's diary during a break-in, becomes obsessed with her fantasies and desires and decides to transform himself into the man of her dreams. Starring Steven Bauer, Barbara Williams and John Getz. Directed by Douglas Day Stewart

TV VARIATIONS

ANGELA

As London except: 5.10pm-5.40 *Home and Away* 5.50-6.00 *News* 6.00-6.10 *Home and Away* 6.10-6.20 *Angela* 6.20-6.30 *Home and Away* 6.30-6.40 *News* 6.40-6.50 *Home and Away* 6.50-7.00 *News* 7.00-7.10 *Home and Away* 7.10-7.20 *News* 7.20-7.30 *Home and Away* 7.30-7.40 *News* 7.40-7.50 *Home and Away* 7.50-8.00 *News* 8.00-8.10 *Home and Away* 8.10-8.20 *News* 8.20-8.30 *Home and Away* 8.30-8.40 *News* 8.40-8.50 *Home and Away* 8.50-9.00 *News* 9.00-9.10 *Home and Away* 9.10-9.20 *News* 9.20-9.30 *Home and Away* 9.30-9.40 *News* 9.40-9.50 *Home and Away* 9.50-10.00 *News* 10.00-10.10 *Home and Away* 10.10-10.20 *News* 10.20-10.30 *Home and Away* 10.30-10.40 *News* 10.40-10.50 *Home and Away* 10.50-11.00 *News* 11.00-11.10 *Home and Away* 11.10-11.20 *News* 11.20-11.30 *Home and Away* 11.30-11.40 *News* 11.40-11.50 *Home and Away* 11.50-12.00 *News* 12.00-12.10 *Home and Away* 12.10-12.20 *News* 12.20-12.30 *Home and Away* 12.30-12.40 *News* 12.40-12.50 *Home and Away* 12.50-1.00 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Navy to order three new frigates

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THREE frigates are to be ordered for the Royal Navy, the government announced last night, bringing to 13 the number of Duke Class Type 23 frigates in the fleet and giving a much-needed boost to British ship-building.

The announcement was made by Kenneth Carlisle, under secretary of state for defence procurement, during a Commons debate on the navy. Invitations to tender for the contract, worth more than £350 million, were issued yesterday to Yarrow, Swan Hunter, Vosper Thornycroft and VSEL.

Three of the Type 23 frigates, designed mainly for an anti-submarine role, are already in service and a further seven have been ordered. The last frigate order was in December 1989.

Mr Carlisle also announced studies into the design of a new nuclear-powered hunter-killer submarine, based on the current Trafalgar Class vessel. This was confirmation that the defence ministry has abandoned plans for a new class of nuclear submarine, the SSN20 or W Class. The new submarine, based on Trafalgar, would enter service around the turn of the century, Mr Carlisle said.

He also confirmed that a design study was under way for a future anti-air warfare frigate to replace the Type 42 destroyer. One of the options is an Anglo-French frigate, an eight-nation frigate project, NFR90, collapsed after Britain and other participants withdrew.

Mr Carlisle said that the future Royal Navy would be a balanced and flexible force with up-to-date and effective equipment and high quality personnel, "more than equal to the threat it would face".

Under the "options for change" defence review, the government is committed to a naval strength of around 40 destroyers and frigates. The number of submarines is being cut from 27 to 16.

Mr Carlisle made no announcement about replacing the two old amphibious vessels, HMS Intrepid and Fearless. He said that the government planned to order an aviation support ship to provide dedicated helicopter lift for the Royal Marines, although it was unlikely this year. Three of the old commando landing ships would also be refurbished "very extensively".

Submarine cuts, page 4



Drop shot: a non-scientific but effective rain-measuring technique being employed by a member of the scoreboard staff at Wimbledon yesterday

Cold and rain puts June among the records

Continued from page 1
similar "shoot-out" was played. If the rate of rainfall continues to the end of the month, 89.7mm of water will have fallen compared with the average of 72mm.

"That compares with 97.6mm in 1987 and 150mm in 1980. It will have to rain very very hard over the coming days to get as wet as that," the Meteorological Office said.

Gauges at Edinburgh airport had

collected 56.5mm of rain by 9am yesterday, which compares with a long-term average of 64mm between 1951 and 1980. In Plymouth 111.3mm had fallen by yesterday morning, compared with the same long-term monthly average of 56mm. At Heathrow airport 77.1mm have so far fallen this month, against an average of 51mm, and the London Weather Centre has collected 81.6mm of rain. Nevertheless, the rainfall is

less dramatic when set against other rainy years. "There have been wetter Junes since 1940. In 1958 we had 109.2mm, with 98.7mm in 1964 and 108mm in 1971," a spokesman at the weather centre said.

Some records have, however, been falling this month. The Edinburgh centre said that Aberdeen had had its coldest June day on record with afternoon temperatures reaching only 7.9C on June 2. The skies over

London this month could also be the dullest since 1929.

So far only 105.5 hours of sunshine have been recorded over the capital which, if conditions persist, could add up to just 121.7 hours by the end of June. The previous dullest June was in 1987 when the sun shone for just 127.2 hours. The Met Office said that temperatures over central England have been "fairly special," averaging 12C below normal.

Big rise in HIV among mothers

By THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

AT LEAST one in every 500 sexually active women in inner London is carrying the Aids virus, and the rate is doubling every year, according to the most comprehensive study of its kind, published today.

The findings, which show a tenfold increase in HIV infection in the past three years among women giving birth in the capital, have dismayed experts at the health department. If the rate of increase continues, the epidemic will soon be on a similar scale to those of New York and other American cities, an editorial in *The Lancet* says.

A similar study in the journal shows high infection rates among mothers in Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. The results indicate an even wider spread of the virus generally among women in these cities, because only a

minority of them become pregnant. Of that minority, most are likely to be in stable relationships.

The London study is based on routine pinprick blood samples taken from more than 320,000 babies born in inner and outer London between July 1988 and March of this year. The samples showed



Sir Donald: "Increase has disturbing implications"

how many babies were born with antibodies to HIV, thus revealing how many women were infected. In 1988, the rate was one in 2,000, but had risen to one in 500 by March.

"This is an alarming increase that has deeply disturbing implications," Sir Donald Acheson, the government's chief medical officer, said. The figures tell us only about HIV infection among women giving birth. The majority of young, sexually active women are not pregnant and have more sexual freedom than those who become mothers. This study should persuade young men and women, not just in London, of the need to be careful in their sexual behaviour.

The study was conducted in three of London's four health regions by researchers led by Catherine Peckham, of the Institute of Child Health. One of the findings was that in only 20 per cent of cases did

maternity hospital staff know that the mother was HIV positive, an indication of the extent to which the infection goes unrecognized in the heterosexual population. Professor Peckham and colleagues say that antenatal HIV screening policies in London underestimate the spread, and suggest all pregnant women should be offered HIV tests.

Although there is evidence that many of the women in the studies became infected abroad, or through intravenous drug abuse, the results clearly suggest that heterosexual spread of HIV is accelerating in the general population. All babies born to HIV-positive mothers have antibodies to the virus, but only about 15 per cent of the infants are truly infected. Their status cannot be determined accurately until they have shed maternal antibodies, by about 18 months.

Tourists told to fly home

Continued from page 1
passengers already on board heading for a Thomson Holidays package in Pula was lined up for take off at Gatwick airport when it was announced that the flight had been cancelled. "We sat on that plane for almost an hour," said John Robson of Romford.

"It is disgusting. The only person who spoke to us was a stewardess who told us to get off and took us back into the customs area. Then they confiscated all our duty-free - two bottles of spirits. They said if you opened the bottle you would have to pay duty on it."

The passengers were handed a letter from Thomson's apologising for the inconvenience. "Our next step will be to try and arrange an alternative holiday for you," said the letter.

Political sketch

Sorry, we're fresh out of answers

"THE prime minister is examining a plan for up to a million public servants to wear name badges, to make them more responsive to customers and give them greater pride in their work". Or so reported *The Times*. I like the idea. These days we are all "customers", but the new thinking has bastions still to storm. After all, if we are no longer passengers on British Rail, but customers, and if tattooed applicants for DHS loans to replace a lounge suite eaten by the family's pet Rottweiler are to consider themselves customers too, why should MPs have "constituents" any longer? Surely these, equally, are customers. And do "backbenchers" or "hon friends" question ministers? Are they not the secretary of state's customers?

When ministers wear name badges, then and only then shall I believe that the PM's citizens' charter is working. "Complaints or suggestions? Norman, heading our treasury team, is on this line". Norman did not himself say "how can I help you?" yesterday, but his friendly smile at the dispatch box said it for him. Several customers wanted to know about the hard ecu Norman tried to sell them last year. As Chris from Islington pointed out, the sharp-eyed on Wednesday thought they heard the PM refer to his "hardened" ecu plan. Well spotted, Chris. Hardened ecu = softened plan. Ministers have quietly dropped the hard ecu. In citizens' newspaper "the hard ecu has been discontinued due to lack of customer demand".

That is not quite how Norman put it. Still on a learning curve, Norman said there were "various ideas of hardened ecu along a spectrum..." Among these excitements he mentioned "a basket ecu". Golly. "A whole area has been stimulated by our original pro-

posals". R.I.P. hard ecu. So far, well, then. Hard ecu. We hardly knew you.

Not every customer had come to complain. Mr Wells from Hertford meant to help. Seeing Norman under pressure from brolly-waving customers over bosses' salary increases ("fat cat greed race," as an enraged customer, Mr Foulkes, spluttered), Mr Wells comforted Norman: "Those who price themselves out of the market will lose their jobs." Take care, Robin. Leigh-Pemberton, or the Bank of England, facing bankruptcy, may hire a cheaper governor.

Gill handled this best. Perhaps the fastest learner in the team, the treasury's minister of state, has the bang of citizens' newspaper already. One of her customers yesterday, an awkward old boy called Sir John Stokes (C. Stourbridge & Halesowen) asked her whether he was alone in feeling that if he were a workaholic he'd be jolly glad to see his boss get a whacking big pay increase.

The honest answer, that Sir John almost certainly was alone, would hardly have suited the moment. Gill dealt admirably with this hot potato: "I'm not sure if that's a question but I must say it's an admirable expression of your sentiments," she told him. And have a nice day, Sir John.

Dave, I fear, the chief secretary - "hi! I'm Dave, fly me" - has a long way to go. He forgot that the customer is always right: even snarling Mr Campbell-Savours, who bayed "where will the money (for tax cuts) come from?" something snapped.

"Have y'done?" Dave shouted. "Shut up saying 'where will the money come from'." Somebody, a rather rude customer, shouted something at the chief secretary. I think it was "swanker".

MATTHEW PARRIS

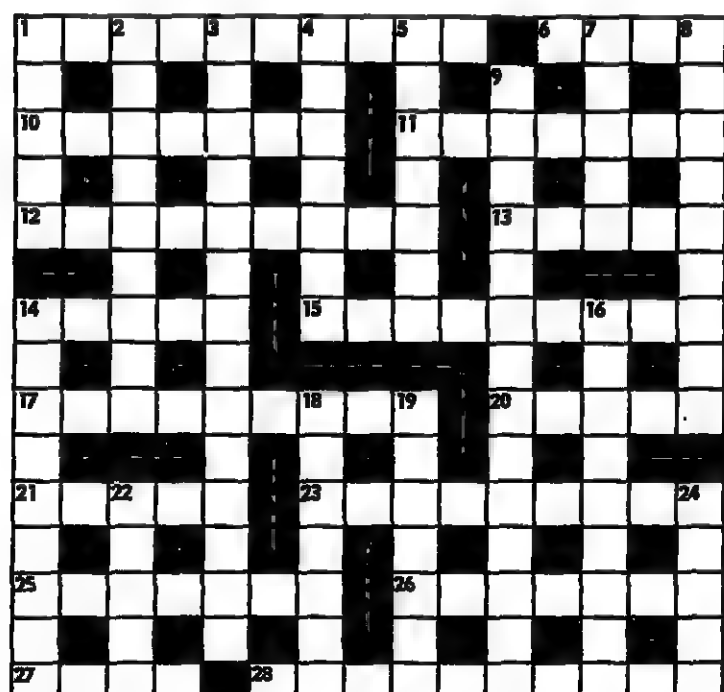
TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

"We're fitter than them", said the captain, "and we're only a few points behind. OK, a couple of the guys are injured, and I've dislocated my shoulder, but all I want to say is, I play really hard in this last quarter".

Whatever you say, skipper. Not that Australian Rules Football looks anything short of really hard at its softest moments, which are few. The game is catching on in England, though exactly what the rules are in Rules remains a mystery to most of us. Callum Murray explains all.

Plus: A wet and dry guide to the best of what's on over the weekend, in town and out

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,644



- ACROSS
- 1 Money going on the house wine (10).
 - 6 Poet's verse one inserted in unfinished poem (4).
 - 10 US city getting mad with CIA (7).
 - 11 She gets involved with Sue and Penny, in place of Diana (7).
 - 12 He'll give nothing away and hide pirate (9).
 - 13 Start fighting round roadblock initially (3,2).
 - 14 It's an offence, pinching article of Continental type (5).
 - 15 Recipient of money holds gold back as security (9).
 - 17 Get weaver to drink a toast (7,2).
 - 20 At one time, you beat retreat fast (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,643

TRAUMA ADVOWSON
LOCARNO INHERIT
ECHOING GEM
SCHOOL DAYS
GEM
OILWELL ASHAMED
PILLOWED
EXCITED DRIVERS
AERO N C
DUDE METHUSLAN
I E S M I M I A
NANETTE CROPPER
E Z A N K R S
DRAUGHTS DELETED

- DOWN
- 1 Jersey and Guernsey, say, as place for yachting (5).
 - 2 Record-holder accomplished 7 changes (9).
 - 3 Coward's work shortened fight (5,9).
 - 4 University's books (7).
 - 5 Disinclination to move, in time, is holding it up (7).
 - 7 Attack German weapon on unfinished site (5).
 - 8 Finding modern type of musical entertainment jolly (9).
 - 9 The English play (4,5,5).
 - 10 Plant experts introducing Russian boy to skills (9).
 - 11 Tragedy's beginning, in fact, in a touching way (9).
 - 12 Two-thirds of orchestra confused about unknown piece of music (7).
 - 13 A despot corrupted magistrate in Italy (7).
 - 14 Hazard to shipping requires one to take care in sound (5).
 - 15 Trick had briefly taken in the Venetian official (5).

Concise crossword, page 17

WEATHER

By Philip Howard

PTOCROCRACY
a. The kingdom of the blind
b. Artistic disintegration
c. Rate by beggars
THAR
a. Nordic god of peace
b. The Himalayan goat-antelope
c. Obsolete Siam silver coin
HASSAR
a. A Hungarian cavalryman
b. A Persian sea party
c. A land-walking catfish
RAFALE
a. Wind of the Mesopotamia
b. Battle of Britain Beer
c. Rapid burst of artillery

Answers on page 18

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE
C. London (within N & S Circles).....731
M-ways/roads M4-M1.....732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.....733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25.....734
M-ways/roads M25-M4.....735
M25 London Orbital only.....736

National
National motorways.....737
West Country.....738
Wales.....739
Midlands.....740
East Anglia.....741
North-west England.....742
North-east England.....743
Scotland.....744
Northern Ireland.....745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 34p per minute (cheap rate) and 45p per minute at all other times.

Wales, Northern Ireland and southwest England will be mostly dry with long sunny spells although it will become more cloudy. East and southeast England and the Midlands will begin dry with some sunshine but showers will develop during the morning with heavier bursts during the afternoon, these dying away later. Northern England and Scotland will be mostly dry with sunny periods. Outlook: more rain.

ABROAD
MIDDAY: 1st thunder, 2nd drizzle, 3rd fog, 4th sun, 5th rain, 6th snow, 7th hail, 8th sleet, 9th rain, 10th sun, 11th fog, 12th rain, 13th hail, 14th sleet, 15th rain, 16th sun, 17th fog, 18th rain, 19th hail, 20th sleet, 21st rain, 22nd sun, 23rd fog, 24th rain, 25th hail, 26th sleet, 27th rain, 28th sun, 29th fog, 30th rain, 31st hail, 32nd sleet, 33rd rain, 34th sun, 35th fog, 36th rain, 37th hail, 38th sleet, 39th rain, 40th sun, 41st fog, 42th rain, 43th hail, 44th sleet, 45th rain, 46th sun, 47th fog, 48th rain, 49th hail, 50th sleet, 51st rain, 52th sun, 53th fog, 54th rain, 55th hail, 56th sleet, 57th rain, 58th sun, 59th fog, 60th rain, 61st hail, 62th sleet, 63th rain, 64th sun, 65th fog, 66th rain, 67th hail, 68th sleet, 69th rain, 70th sun, 71st fog, 72th rain, 73th hail, 74th sleet, 75th rain, 76th sun, 77th fog, 78th rain, 79th hail, 80th sleet, 81st rain, 82th sun, 83th fog, 84th rain, 85th hail, 86th sleet, 87th rain, 88th sun, 89th fog, 90th rain, 91st hail, 92th sleet, 93th rain, 94th sun, 95th fog, 96th rain, 97th hail, 98th sleet, 99th rain, 100th sun, 101st fog, 102th rain, 103th hail, 104th sleet, 105th rain, 106th sun, 107th fog, 108th rain, 109th hail, 110th sleet, 111th rain, 112th sun, 113th fog, 114th rain, 115th hail, 116th sleet, 117th rain, 118th sun, 119th fog, 120th rain, 121st hail, 122th sleet, 123th rain, 124th sun, 125th fog, 126th rain, 127th hail, 128th sleet, 129th rain, 130th sun, 131st fog, 132th rain, 133th hail, 134th sleet, 135th rain, 136th sun, 137th fog, 138th rain, 139th hail, 140th sleet, 141st rain, 142th sun, 143th fog, 144th rain, 145th hail, 146th sleet, 147th rain, 148th sun, 149th fog, 150th rain, 151st hail, 152th sleet, 153th rain, 154th sun, 155th fog, 156th rain, 157th hail, 158th sleet, 159th rain, 160th sun, 161st fog, 162th rain, 163th hail, 164th sleet, 165th rain, 166th sun, 167th fog, 168th rain, 169th hail, 170th sleet, 171st rain, 172th sun, 173th fog, 174th rain, 175th hail, 176th sleet, 177th 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- YOUR OWN BUSINESS 34
- SPORT 36-40

M0 up to 1.9% in June

THE Bank of England's latest weekly figures point to growth in M0, the officially-targeted narrow money measure, to an annual 1.9 per cent in June from 1.6 per cent in May (Colin Nisbrough writes). The acceleration was seen by some economists as possibly the "faint stirrings" of recovery. The M0 estimates are based on the Bank's notes in circulation data. In the fourth week this month they showed an increase of 1.5 per cent over the equivalent week last year.

British manufacturers' capital spending dropped almost 6 per cent in the first quarter of this year and was 16 per cent below the same quarter last year, the Central Statistical Office showed.

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE
Dick Glenside is often described as having matinee idol looks. As chairman of BOC, he also has a salary to match. He talks about his life to Carol Leonard.

FRAUD CLAMPDOWN
Anyone going on a spending spree at the summer sales could arrive home to a mysterious phone call. Lindsay Cook reports on Barclaycard's latest weapon in the fight against fraud.

HOME FROM HOME
As repossession mounts, Sara McColl advises that renting out one's home could be the solution to mortgage problems.

THE POUND
US dollar 1.6335 (-0.0085)
German mark 2.9289 (+0.0023)
Exchange Index 89.7 (same)

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share 1912.0 (-10.5)
FT-SE 100 2452.5 (-15.2)
New York Dow Jones 2929.79 (+16.78)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 23543.03 (-223.35)

MAJOR CHANGES
RISER: Northern Group 840p (+12p)
Redland 559p (+8p)
Simon Eng 329p (+11p)
Sella 180p (+8p)
Rank Org 95p (+8p)
Rothmans 98p (+45p)
THORN EM 741p (+14p)
Wessex 308p (+11p)
FALLS: Granger 134p (-19p)
Estates & Agency 260p (-15p)
BTP 204p (-9p)
Dagbladet 85p (-10p)
ADT 612p (-61p)
Flogas 195p (-30p)
Hawker Siddeley 540p (-13p)
Burford Brew 117p (-18p)
News Corp 350p (-19p)
Prestitec 270p (-10p)
Countrywide 155p (-15p)
BPB Ind 187p (-12p)
Closing Prices...Page 27

INTEREST RATES
London: Bank Base: 11 1/2%
3-month Interbank 11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.56-5.54%
30-year bonds 96-96 1/2%

CURRENCIES
London: £/\$ 1.6335
£/DM 1.7945
£/Sfr 1.5484
£/FF 1.3665
£/Yen 226.59
£/Index 97.7
ECU 1.427786
SDR 1.236347

GOLD
London Fixing: AM \$355.20 PM \$354.80
Close \$354.70/\$355.20 (\$223.50-224.00)
New York: Comex \$356.85-357.35

NORTH SEA OIL
Brent (Jul) \$18.10 bid (\$18.05)
Dated latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES
RPI: 133.5 May (1987=100)

Goodison blames recession, poor management and judgment

Hill Samuel pushes TSB to £150m loss

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE TSB Group has crashed to an unprecedented loss of £150 million after suffering massive bad debt provisions in Hill Samuel, its merchant banking arm.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the chairman, said the loss, caused by a £440 million bad debt provision, was not only due to the recession. He also blamed poor management and poor judgment. He added that he hoped, but was not certain, that there would be no need for further heavy provisions in the second half.

Hamish Donaldson, the former head of Hill Samuel, left the group in March, along with Ted Emerson, the managing director of the corporate banking division.

The loss in the six months to end-April compares with a pre-tax profit of £175 million for the first half last year. Despite the disastrous downturn, the group is maintaining its interim dividend at 3.15p.

Hill Samuel has been forced to provide a record £344 million against its £5 billion loan book, £295 million higher than a year ago. The provisions pushed the merchant bank to a £319 million loss. Huw Freedberg, the new head of Hill Samuel, said that a tenth of his bank's loans are in arrears, by far the worst experience of any leading bank in this recession.

Mr Freedberg denied that the bank had over-provided to boost profits in future years. He said: "We have made an analysis of the loan book on

current security values, not hopeful values in the future." The loss was met with astonishment in the City, where analysts had been expecting TSB to break even at worst. Brokers are waiting anxiously for the rest of the high street banks' figures at the end of July, with Midland forecast to make another loss and National Westminster only expected to break even. TSB is expected to struggle to break even in the full year, despite an exceptional profit on the sale of its bank in Northern Ireland.

A large part of the provisions are thought to have been made against Brent Walker, to which Hill Samuel is estimated to have a exposure of more than £120 million. Don McCrickard, TSB's chief executive, said: "There were unacceptable management shortfalls." He later admitted, however, that he chairs TSB's credit committee and had personally passed all Hill Samuel's loans of more than £25 million. "You look at a loan at the time and you make a judgment," he said. "I don't feel very good about it. One would like to have a crystal ball but you don't."

Sir Nicholas said that Hill Samuel increased its loans substantially in the late Eighties, when the economy was booming and property values were rising. He said: "The timing could hardly have been worse. Hill Samuel was not alone in enlarging its book at the time. There was a common optimism among finan-



Bad news: Sir Nicholas (left) and Mr McCrickard before announcing the loss yesterday

Wessex trims final payout

By OUR FINANCIAL EDITOR

WESSEX Water has trimmed the increase in its final dividend to 14 per cent after warnings by Ian Byatt, the director general of water services, over excessive rises in the privatised industry.

Wessex had the highest notional rise of the ten water companies in its interim payment - an interim dividend was actually paid for 1989-90 - but its total dividend for the year to end-March is only slightly above the average, at up 16.3 per cent.

Nicholas Hood, the chairman, said Wessex still hoped to raise dividends above inflation from its core water business, as envisaged when price limits were set. He said Wessex also had the prospect of delivering a considerable stream of profits in the unregulated business it has set up in a £63 million equity-financed joint venture with Waste Management, the American group.

Pre-tax profits increased an effective 17 per cent to £66 million, on turnover up 13 per cent to £167 million. Operating costs rose only 5 per cent.

Mr Hood claimed that Wessex delivered the best standards of quality and compliance with standards of any of the privatised groups. He said investment was on schedule, and that the £1.3 billion ten-year programme would be achieved ahead of target.

Capital spending at £97 million was below the £107 million originally planned for 1990-1, but only because £10 million of anti-drought measures had been brought forward into 1989-90.

Greycoat hurt by £64m provision

By MATTHEW BOND

GREYCOAT, the property investment company with a one third interest in the redevelopment of Paternoster Square, London, has reported a pre-tax loss of £38.5 million (£20.4 million profit) for the year to end-March.

The fall resulted from a £64 million provision against properties bought for development, including a £19.6 million provision against the Paternoster project.

Greycoat's balance sheet was also hit by the slide in property values, with the value of its investment portfolio falling by 13.6 per cent.

The firm's wholly owned investment properties have been valued at £720 million, with a further £107 million owned through associates. Shareholders' funds slid 34 per cent to £468 million, while gearing rose to 80 per cent.

Geoffrey Wilson, chairman, said the average cost of borrowing was less than 10 per cent. Net assets per share fell from 726p to 477p.

Shares closed 6p higher at 249p, helped by a maintained final dividend of 2.9p, to give an unchanged total of 5.2p.

Paternoster prospects, page 23

Power profits surge

By MARTIN WALLER

DUNCAN Ross, the chairman of Southern Electric, held out the prospect of price rises next year of below the rate of inflation, as the reporting season for the industry continued with two more sets of higher than forecast profits.

Mr Ross predicted with "a reasonable degree of confidence" that tariffs imposed from next April would be below the then rate of inflation.

Southern raised its prices 10.9 per cent for the current financial year. London Electricity, also reporting year-end profits yesterday, imposed a similar increase this year but would not say if the net price rise would be below inflation.

Both companies continued the trend of reporting pre-tax profits substantially higher than forecast in the prospectus published in November ahead of their stock market debuts.

Southern produced profits in the year to end-March of £139.6 million, against a forecast of £122.7 million, despite £33 million of one-off provisions not included in the prospectus.

London produced £141.8 million pre-tax, against £115.6 million forecast. Both companies are paying the level of dividend already promised to shareholders, 10.12p in the case of Southern and 10.45p for London.

They are following the trend established by the two other distributors that have reported by electing not to dip into the excess profits to increase the payout. Scottish Power, one of the two Scottish companies whose shares started trading on the stock market last week, also reported yesterday. The full-year figures were in line with the prospectus. Pre-tax profits were £144.7 million, up from £130 million. The company is not paying a dividend.

The shares are only 4p ahead of the price they were floated at, and the share issue has disappointed many smaller investors.

Duncan Whyte, the finance director, said the government had ignored the company's request to set a higher yield and so ensure some profit in the after-market.

Temps, page 23

BPB joins queue for cash

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR



Turner: profit warning

BPB Industries, Europe's leading plasterboard manufacturer, is seeking £125.5 million in a move that takes the cash raised by Britain's building and construction groups in recent months to more than £1 billion.

The rights issue, under which shareholders are offered one new share for every five held, at 155p a share, accompanied grim trading news. Pre-tax profits fell from £126.4 million to £90.8 million in the

year to March 31, and were flattened by a £21.8 million exceptional profit, comprising surpluses on disposals less redundancy costs.

Alan Turner, BPB chairman, issued a warning that the difficult short-term trading outlook would be reflected in the first-half profits.

The group held the dividend at 11.25p a share, with an unchanged final of 7.25p.

Temps, page 23

Ups and downs of life at OFT

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

AFTER more than 15 years as director general of fair trading, Sir Gordon Borrie admits he is still sometimes alternately euphoric and depressed as he busts illegal cartels or stops consumers being misled or ripped off, then finds restraints of trade coming round for the second time or learns of new malpractices that are not covered by existing laws.

In the sixteenth and final year of a tenure that has set the standards for the new generation of regulators, Sir Gordon is still not sure if all the moves to tighten protection have actually made life better for consumers but is convinced that eternal vigilance will be needed as new crooks and sharp practices emerge. "I am afraid there are still far too many examples of businesses that are dishonest or engaged in misleading market-

ing, or inefficient or cavalier in their treatment of the consumer," Sir Gordon said as he introduced his annual report.

Competition is the best cure. "No one has yet created a better instrument than lively competition to produce satisfied customers. As the consistently most successful enterprises demonstrate time after time, treating customers well pays off handsomely in market share and profitable growth." But there are limits. "While competition is essential for consumer choice, it is not enough." Much of the OFT's recent consumer protection work has been in highly competitive businesses such as time-share property sales, estate agency and the motor trade.

There were about 700,000 official consumer complaints last year, including those logged by citizens advice bureaux and trading standards offices. Many more do not complain. "There remains a large iceberg of consumer dissatisfaction," Sir Gordon admitted.

The OFT is now curbing unethical behaviour by estate agents under rules that enable it to stop agents trading. Complaints about timeshare operators soared 123 per cent to 8,516 last year. The Trade Descriptions Act is to be amended and the government is trying to persuade Brussels to draw up an EC-wide directive on this international business. Banks, which have been facing criticism over their treatment of small businesses, are also upsetting some personal customers as complaints in this category rose 33 per cent to 2,478.

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Walker to seek court protection

By NEIL BENNETT

GEORGE Walker, the sacked chief executive of Brent Walker, is going to the High Court on Monday to stop the leisure group's banks from voting him off the board.

Mr Walker has served writs on eight of the banks in Brent's bank steering committee. He is seeking an injunction to prevent them voting their shares for his removal at an extraordinary meeting on Tuesday. The writs demand that the banks withdraw their call for his removal as a condition for agreeing to Brent's £1.4 billion refinancing.

Brent's board needs a 75 per cent majority to oust him, his wife and John Hemingway, another director. The banks, which stand to lose hundreds of millions if the refinancing fails, are Standard Chartered, Hill Samuel, Lloyd's Arab Banking Corporation, Credit Agricole, the Bank of Yokohama, Svenska Handelsbank and the TSB.

Bundesbank hints at tighter policy

From WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU in Berlin

THE Bundesbank has warned the German government not to allow "matters to carry on as they are", and indicated that a decision to tighten monetary policy would be taken at its next council meeting on July 11.

The unusually tough statement came after the Federal Statistics Office announced a surprise 0.5 per cent rise in the rate of inflation in May, bringing it to 3.5 per cent on an annual basis, the highest level since April 1983.

News of the rise caused an increase in the German money market rate to just less than 9 per cent — the official Lombard emergency funding rate.

A further rise in inflation is expected next month when a range of indirect tax surcharges, in particular a 10 pfennig increase in petrol

duties, will come into effect. After a meeting of the central bank council, Karl Otto Pöhl, the outgoing president of the Bundesbank, said the Bundesbank would discuss a possible revision of its money supply target range at its next meeting.

There is concern that the current range for M3, the broad money supply target used by the Bundesbank, of 4 to 6 per cent, is too lax. Although growth in M3 is below 4 per cent, it is expected to rise faster during the rest of the year.

The council decided yesterday not to change interest rates, but Johann Wilhelm Gaddum, a Bundesbank director, admitted that the present level of inflation "creates worries, and we will do all in our power to counteract this". He said the recent rise in

inflation was causing concern inside the Bundesbank, and might lead to "economic changes which are undesirable". He added, however, that recent increases in interest rates had yet to work through the system and refused to speculate on possible rises in the discount and Lombard rates.

Herr Pöhl, who has described German monetary union as a "disaster", called for less intervention and more market, and warned the government not to increase transfer payments to eastern Germany, which are costing an annual DM150 billion.

He said: "For the future, it is important that the western part of Germany must not be overstretched, because the health of the western economy builds the foundation for the recovery in the east."



Cookson's chief: Malpas returns to corporate stage

PowerGen ex-chief will chair Cookson

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ROBERT Malpas, who shocked the City last November by quitting the chairmanship of PowerGen, the electricity generator, has returned to the corporate stage to chair Cookson, the debt-burdened industrial materials group.

Cookson was forced by recession to sell large parts of its business at bargain basement prices last year, but its efforts to restore market confidence have yet to succeed.

Mr Malpas, aged 63, a former managing director of British Petroleum, resigned from PowerGen after a boardroom dispute just before the power industry privatisation started. His resignation embarrassed the government.

The link between his departure from PowerGen and the Hanson conglomerate's £1.5 billion offer for the power generator was never clear, but it was seen in the City as one of the initial causes of friction between Mr Malpas, an outsider at the public sector utility, and the PowerGen board.

However, his track record, which includes building up the European operations of ICI, which now contributes a quarter of the chemicals group's income, should help Cookson to overcome the rocky patch it has been going through.

Mr Malpas said yesterday that Cookson had straightened itself out and that he would continue to build on that.

TGI losses deepen to £820,000

By PHILIP PANGALOS

TGI, the troubled loudspeaker group, has unveiled increased full-year losses and plans to strengthen its management.

Nigel Hamilton, the former head of Anglo Nordic and Black and Decker, will be appointed chief executive from August 1, replacing Tony Bennett, who resigned last December. Michael Windsor, a former managing director of Vickers, will be appointed a non-executive director.

TGI, which is best known for its Tannoy public-address system and Goodmans speakers, unveiled deepening losses of £820,000 (£101,000) in the year to end-March, on turnover of £44.4 million (£54.8 million). There was an extraordinary loss of £5.31 million, relating to the disposal of the factored products division and a provision for the loss on the disposal of Xylo at the end of last month. There is a 7.8p loss per share (0.1p), and no final dividend (4p), making 2.2p (6.2p) for the year. Shares fell 4p to 29p.

TGI recently asked Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, its former auditors, to resign in a dispute over £1.1 million of alleged overstated profits at Tannoy Audix, a public address and broadcasting systems maker acquired in 1989. TGI said KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the new auditors, has completed its investigation, and Audix's pre-tax profit of £1.1 million has been restated to show a loss of £700,000.

Caledonia unchanged at £35.3m

CALEDONIA Investments, the investment company controlled by the Cayzer family, reports pre-tax profits unchanged in the year to end-March at £35.3 million. The final dividend is up 1p to 9p, making 13.5p for the year, up 12.5 per cent.

In April, Caledonia cashed a tranche of £82 million of its preference shares in British & Commonwealth, even though B&C was placed in administration last summer. The preference issue was guaranteed by B&C's bankers. Caledonia is due to cash its final £82 million tranche next year.

Investment income fell £5.2 million because of the fall in the B&C holding.

Share offer values Eurocamp at £59m

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Eurocamp, the self-drive camping and caravan holiday concern, are being offered at 225p a share, valuing the company at £58.9 million.

Eurocamp, a management buy-out from Next in 1988, is seeking a full listing on the London Stock Exchange through an offer and placing sponsored by Lazard, raising £24.8 million for the company after expenses.

The proceeds will be used to repay borrowings of £20 million and redeem £13 million of convertible preference shares issued at the time of the £32 million management buyout.

The 20-strong management team, headed by Richard Atkinson, managing director, is cashing in 15 per cent of its shareholding to realise a total

of £1 million. Management will be left with about 10 per cent of the quoted company.

Eurocamp is offering almost half of the 12.82 million shares to the public. The balance is being placed with institutional investors. Rowe & Pitman and Allied Provincial Securities are brokers.

The company is forecasting profits before interest of £8.5 million for the 12 months to end-October, compared with £7.7 million and £5.8 million in the two previous financial years. Pre-forma earnings per share are forecast at 20.8p, implying a price/earnings ratio of 10.8 at the issue price.

Investors are promised a final dividend of 5.5p a share, payable in April. On an annualised basis, the dividend would be 8.5p a share and the notional gross yield 5 per cent.

MAJOR INDICES

New York:	2929.79 (+15.78)*	Paris: CAC	470.32 (-3.10)
Dow Jones	347.00 (+1.07)	Zurich: S&K Gen	536.0 (-3.4)
FTSE 100	2343.03 (-22.35)	London:	
Hong Kong:	3623.79 (-4.85)	FT - A All Share	1178.88 (+5.88)
FTSE Euro 100	1116.92 (+2.13)	FT - 500*	1305.37 (+7.05)
Amsterdam:		FT Gold Mines	187.5 (-0.7)
CBS Tendency	83.9 (+0.6)	FT Fixed Interest	82.81 (+0.01)
Sydney: AO	1500.9 (-6.1)	FT Govt Secs	83.43 (-0.02)
Frankfurt: DAX	1668.09 (-6.05)	Bargains	25728
Brussels:		SEAO Volume	544.8m
General	5746.02 (-5.52)	USM (Datastream)	127.43 (+0.22)

*Denotes latest trading price

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

American consumer spending rises 1.1%

MICHAEL Boskin, President Bush's chief economist, has given the White House's strongest statement to date that the American recession is over. His comments followed a report from the Commerce Department that consumer spending, which accounts for about two-thirds of America's economic activity, rose 1.1 per cent in May. The rise was larger than expected.

Economists have estimated that the improvements could boost gross national product growth in the second quarter to about 2 per cent. But other statistics, especially unemployment data, are expected to show little or no improvement in the coming months. Mr Boskin said that a wide range of evidence, including stronger car sales and new orders for durable goods, suggested the country was "in the early stages" of an upturn.

Monarch hit by low prices

MONARCH Resources, the London-listed gold mining group, has written off goodwill of \$35.55 million because of low gold prices and the disappointing operating performance of the 49 per cent Revenim reprocessing plant in Venezuela. The company also incurred pre-tax losses of \$6.1 million (\$365,000 profit) last year. Attributable losses were \$41.75 million.

SEC launches law suit

THE Securities and Exchange Commission in New York is suing Mark Sendo, West Bloomfield, Scott Burman, Birmingham, and Richard Tringale, Grosse Pointe Woods, all from Michigan. The suit claims they ordered more than \$65 million in securities without putting their own funds at risk. The suit seeks to force the men to repay any profits generated.

Gardner rejects bid

DC Gardner Group, the training and consultancy company, has rejected a takeover approach announced this week because "the proposal would not be in the best interests of shareholders". On Tuesday, shares jumped 25p to 79p after news of the bid, which was "substantially in excess" of the then market price. The shares remain unchanged at 79p.

At the same time, DC Gardner urged shareholders to support a £4.1 million rights issue announced earlier in the month. This is aimed at reducing the group's borrowings, believed to stand at more than £12 million.

Tax hopes at Tie Rack

TIE Rack, the speciality retailer, said it expected to benefit from a tax credit after the Inland Revenue confirmed that the company's overseas subsidiaries were resident in Britain for tax purposes. As a result, substantial losses incurred by subsidiaries in America may be offset against British profits. The company expects to receive a tax credit this year.

Willoughby declines

WILLOUGHBY'S Consolidated, the Zimbabwean gold miner and cattle rancher controlled by Lonrho, reports a fall in pre-tax profits to £270,000 (£1.11 million) in the six months to end-March. Turnover declined to £5.67 million (£7.14 million). Investment sales led to an extraordinary profit of £31,000. Earnings slipped to 3.1p (9.4p); interim dividend is maintained at 1p.

N Sea oil output falls

SUMMER maintenance and post-Piper Alpha disaster safety work pushed down North Sea oil production last month to its lowest level for two years. Economists at the Royal Bank of Scotland said May's output was nearly 9 per cent down on the previous month and its daily value of £16.2 million was about half that produced last autumn. Chevron's Ninian field and BP's Magnus field shut down for three weeks for safety work, while routine maintenance at BP's Forties field reduced its production by half.

COMPANY BRIEFS

GRAHAM WOOD (Fin)	Pre-tax: £821,000 EPS: 17.6p (35.9p) Div: 2.5p, mkg 5.5p (6p)	Last time's profit was £1.75m. Turnover grew to £43.8m (£39.8m). Extraordinary loss of £574,000, mainly due to closure costs.
ARTHUR LEE & SONS (Int)	Pre-tax: £323,000 EPS: 1.05p (6.41p) Div: 1.85p (1.65p)	Last time's profit was £2.72m. Turnover fell to £54.9m (£63.4m). The company blames the recession for a sharp decline in demand.
WILSHAW (Fin)	Pre-tax: £732,000 EPS: 0.61p (1.39p) Div: 0.2p, mkg 0.3p	Last time's profit was £1.87m. Last time's total dividend was 0.35p. Exceptional debit of £182,000 (nil).
TAMS (JOHN) (Fin)	Pre-tax: £22,68m (£22.62m) EPS: 8.34p (8.25p) Div: 2.41p, mkg 4p	Last time's total dividend was 3.78p. Turnover grew to £20.4m (£18m). The net asset value per share climbed to 36.95p (£1.44p).
VISTEC GROUP (Fin)	Pre-tax: £1,78m (£1.59m) EPS: 0.95p (0.92p) Div: 0.2p (0.1p)	Turnover declined to £31m (£28m). Extraordinary credit of £61,000, compared with a debit of £37,000 last year.
BRISTOL EVENING POST	Pre-tax: £47.7m (£7.91m) EPS: 13.54p (20.7p) Div: 7.75p, mkg 11.5p	Final results. Last time's total dividend was 11.5p. Turnover fell to £81.4m (£83.5m). Advertising revenues fell by 12.4 per cent.
BERKELEY GROUP (Fin)	Pre-tax: £185,000 EPS: 0.3p (0.3p) Div: 5p, mkg 4.5p (4.5p)	Last time's profit was £204,000. Extraordinary provision of £760,000 (£2.83m). Interest payments were cut to £277,000 (£2.94m).
HARDYS & HANSONS (Int)	Pre-tax: £3,45m (£2.94m) EPS: 45.915p (38.195p) Div: 13.4p (11.2p)	Turnover grew to £13.4m (£11.5m). Company said it will be difficult to achieve the same rate of profit increase in the second half.
CLYDE BLOWERS (Int)	Pre-tax: £126,207 EPS: 9.2p (6.9p) Div: 0.83p (0.83p)	Last time's profit was £91,837. Company said British competition is more intense and margins are under increasing pressure.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000				
Abbey Nat	2,378	Century	1,825	Lloyds	1,575	Rothmans B	1,053
Alli-Lyons	1,328	CU	634	Lucas	1,255	Royal Bank	941
Anglian	2,216	Courtauld	314	M&S	1,227	Royal Ind	949
ASDA	2,227	Enterprise	448	M&S	1,188	Sainsbury	1,148
AB Foods	246	Eurochem	298	Reckitt Ben	277	Scott & N	497
Anglo	1,488	Peoples	1,802	MEPC	92	Seas	9,542
Arjo Wagg	1,079	Porta	1,104	Midland	1,509	Servint Trm	2,483
B&A	1,717	Gen Acc	680	Mid Power	4,243	Shell	3,377
BET	2,808	GEC	8,027	West Wot	3,732	Smith & N	1,295
BTH	1,984	Glaxo	3,514	N W Water	844	SK Beach	1,812
BUS	2,113	Grand Met	1,181	P&O	574	Sun Africa	980
Barclays	2,010	GRE	67	Pearson	1,451	Tarmac	1,677
Beech	1,003	Guinness	856	PowerGen	3,130	TSS	1,284
BICC	227	Hamm A	182	Prudential	1,134	Tesco	1,665
Bk Scotland	886	Hamm B	8,868	Racal	1,204	Thames Wv	1,650
Blue Circle	1,897	H&C	558	Rit Hovs	682	Thorn EMI	726
BOC	728	Imperial	1,280	RSC	89	Tratlon	3,314
Borgs	1,154	ICI	1,250	RSC	89	Unilever	553
Br Aero	1,016	Kingfisher	1,250	Reed	740	United Sta	859
Br Airways	1,722	Lamco	500	Reuners	311	Wellcome	1,085
Br Gas	7,262	Ladbroke	3,424	RSC Op	491	Wm Morris	1,285
Br Petrol	6,079	Land Sec	475	RTZ	2,411	Wills Cor	2,165
Br Steel	1,534	LAG	787	R-Royce	2,411		
Br Telecom	6,416						
C&W	1,151						

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Profits from operations and dividend maintained

R W Rowland, Chief Executive

Dear Shareholders,

The half year figures for Lonrho in 1991 have been maintained at £109 million with earnings per share of 9.3pence. A second interim dividend has been declared at 5pence giving a total dividend to date of 8pence per share which is in line with the 1990 dividends.

The Group's mineral extraction and refining activities made a substantial contribution to profits. Production of Platinum group metals increased by 50% compared to 1990. Taken together with the high price of rhodium, substantial increases in profits from mining were achieved. Gold production increased by 29% with Ashanti being the major contributor.

In Europe, and particularly in Germany, profits continued to improve. Harrison & Sons were recently awarded a major contract to supply passports to the Polish Government.

The Group's Hotel operations were affected by the Gulf War, although occupancies have already begun to improve. The unique niche which the Metropole Hotel Group in the UK has achieved in the Conference field has been a benefit to their profits. The extension to the London Metropole will be completed by the end of September 1991. This hotel will provide some of the best conference facilities in London.

The recession in the United Kingdom has affected manufacturing and motor retailing but VAG, which distributes Audis and Volkswagens, has performed well. Textile operations have maintained profits compared to 1990.

Rationalisation and cost cutting exercises have been carried out throughout the Group. This will result in operations being leaner, and well poised to take advantage of an upturn in demand.

Capital expenditure of some £100 million in respect of the Metropole Group of Hotels is virtually complete. The development of the Platinum group metals expansion is now in its final phase.

In common with all businesses, Lonrho is benefiting from the reduction in interest rates. The Group has also benefited recently from the strengthening of the dollar; many of the Group's operations are tied to dollar trading.

Given steady commodity prices (platinum, rhodium, gold, sugar, etc.), the outlook for the whole year is encouraging.

Yours sincerely,
R W Rowland

27 June 1991

HALF YEAR RESULTS

The unaudited results of the Lonrho Group of companies in respect of the six months ended 31 March 1991 are as follows:—

	5 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 1991 £m	6 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 1990 £m
Turnover	2,392	2,565
Profit before tax	109	110
Tax	22	42
	87	68
Minority interests	27	12
Profit attributable to shareholders before extraordinary items	60	56
Earnings per share	9.3p	9.0p

NOTES

- Turnover includes the Group's share of the turnover of associates amounting to £955 million (1990—£1,042 million).
- Profit before tax includes profits from associates of £26 million (1990—£21 million).
- Tax charge: because of the incidence of accelerated tax allowances, the tax charge provided at the half year can only be estimated.
- Extraordinary charges — £7 million (1990—£12 million).

DIVIDEND

The Board has declared a second interim dividend of 5.00p (1990—5.00p) per share for payment on 1 October 1991 to shareholders on the Register at 8 August 1991 (9 August 1991 in South Africa). This dividend is in addition to the first interim dividend of 3.00p (1990—3.00p) per share declared on 24 January 1991 and paid on 8 April 1991. The cost of the first and second interim dividends amounts to £51 million (1990—£48 million).

Shareholders will be entitled, if they wish, to elect to receive shares credited as fully paid in lieu of the cash dividend or part thereof. The necessary communications will be sent to shareholders in August.

LONRHO

LONRHO Plc. CHEAPSIDE HOUSE, 138 CHEAPSIDE, LONDON EC2V 6BL

New faces and places

TSB cleans up Hill Samuel's mess

COMMENT

If all Britain's corporate banks had fared as badly as Hill Samuel during this recession, the country's financial system would be close to the brink of collapse. No one suspected a disaster of these proportions at TSB Group. The level of bad debt provisions, at £440 million, has smashed all recent records.

Lloyds last year wrote off 2.1 per cent of its assets, thought then to be the highest in British banking history. The TSB has set aside 2.4 per cent in just six months.

A tenth of Hill Samuel's lending, or £500 million, is now impaired and, given the collapse in property values, much of it will never be recovered.

While the recession has been the catalyst for the provisions and the losses, the cause of the failure lies squarely at the feet of the management and TSB's austere chairman, Sir Nicholas Goodison, admitted as much yesterday. After its expensive takeover of Hill Samuel in 1987, TSB gave the bank the encouragement and the capital to lend.

Hill Samuel duly went on a mammoth lending binge. It

increased the loan book by a third in just one quarter in 1989. Brent Walker is merely the largest in a long queue of customers who should have been turned away by any prudent lender. Hamish Donaldson, the former head of Hill Samuel, and a whole layer of the bank's management have paid for the mistakes with their jobs. But Sir Nicholas and Don McCrickard, the group chief executive, presided over the situation and cannot avoid some of the blame.

Mr McCrickard has since despatched Boston Consulting Group, his favourite team of management consultants, to Hill Samuel, to discover a remedy. Their answer makes a nonsense of the entire £777 million acquisition.

Over the next five years, Hill Samuel will trim back its lending to property, to larger companies and more highly-gearred companies. Instead it will concentrate on safe bets, the small, cash-

generative firms that every high street bank is eager to do business with. The loan book as a whole will shrink. This may be the answer for a return to profits but it contradicts the grand plan of Sir John Read, the former chairman, who instigated the takeover. Then he saw Hill Samuel as the vehicle for recycling TSB's vast rump of retail deposits into high margin corporate loans.

Now it looks as though TSB will be left with those deposits, together with an expensive niche corporate banking business.

The pity is that this disaster has shadowed a real success story at the retail bank. TSB is now looked at enviously by other lenders as having the most modern and efficient operation in the high street and this is reflected in the profits. If the

banks' summer reporting season continues as it has started, it should at least add some perspective to the widespread complaints about lending to small companies.

Water profits

Wessex Water, most highly rated of the ten privatised groups with a 6.4 per cent dividend yield, has brought a fascinating end to a water results season dogged by the pay controversy now bearing down on utilities and banks. Some megaphone diplomacy from Ian Byatt, water's financial regulator, has also featured prominently.

Conditions were unexpectedly good for profits. Interest rates were high on initial cash balances and cost inflation, notably in the

depressed construction business, lagged behind the November annual RPI increases on which price limits were set, a factor which will continue *a fortiori* this year.

Dividend increases followed profits rather than the regulator's "book of numbers", ranging from 14.3 per cent at Anglian to an eye-brow-raising 18 per cent at Severn Trent. Some of the profit and dividend rises, as well as high profile diversification moves at Severn Trent and Welsh Water, proved somewhat counter-productive, however, in an industry anxious not to be a political football again.

Wessex's Nicholas Hood, who has a keen eye for changing weather, deliberately curbed an earlier dividend flourish. His diversification was the most spectacular of all; American joint venture partner Waste Management put up £63 million and ends with a 14.9 per cent stake. But the equity deal is seen as a

model by Mr Byatt. Ten different characters, though apparent on privatisation, have emerged more strongly in the changed climate after a full year in the private sector. Yorkshire and Anglian have, perhaps, been the most politically astute in making sure they fulfill their basic job well, co-operate with the regulator and avoid pitfalls. They, too, are highly rated.

North West, which faces the stiffest task of the FT-SE water groups, has made ambitious moves to build up its water engineering business but has still kept a modest profile. At the opposite end, Severn Trent and Southern are paying the price in low ratings for their swashbuckling style, which City investors fear could cause them trouble in an early price review.

Thames, once seen as the most aggressive company, has, however, undergone the sharpest change of image, curbing its final dividend, promising to absorb £200 million of extra costs and putting more emphasis on its basic task. In the maturing market for water shares, that has earned it a marked uprating.

Prospects for Paternoster brighten property gloom

FOR the fans of the neo-classical scheme to redevelop London's Paternoster Square, the news that Greysteel had made a £38.5 million pre-tax loss did not look encouraging.

The prospects for the £800 million scheme looked even bleaker, as it became clear that Greysteel's losses had been struck off it had written off the £19.6 million it has invested and spent on Paternoster Associates, the joint venture development company assembled to rebuild the Sixties-scarred site to the north of St Paul's Cathedral.

Was the Paternoster plan about to become the best-known name on a still-growing list of developments that have been postponed or cancelled because of the collapse in the value of commercial property?

"No," says Geoffrey Wilson, chairman of Greysteel, which has a one-third investment in Paternoster Associates, with the balance shared by Park Tower of America and Mitsubishi Estate of Japan. "The Paternoster scheme will be built. Our provision is simply a matter of prudent accounting."

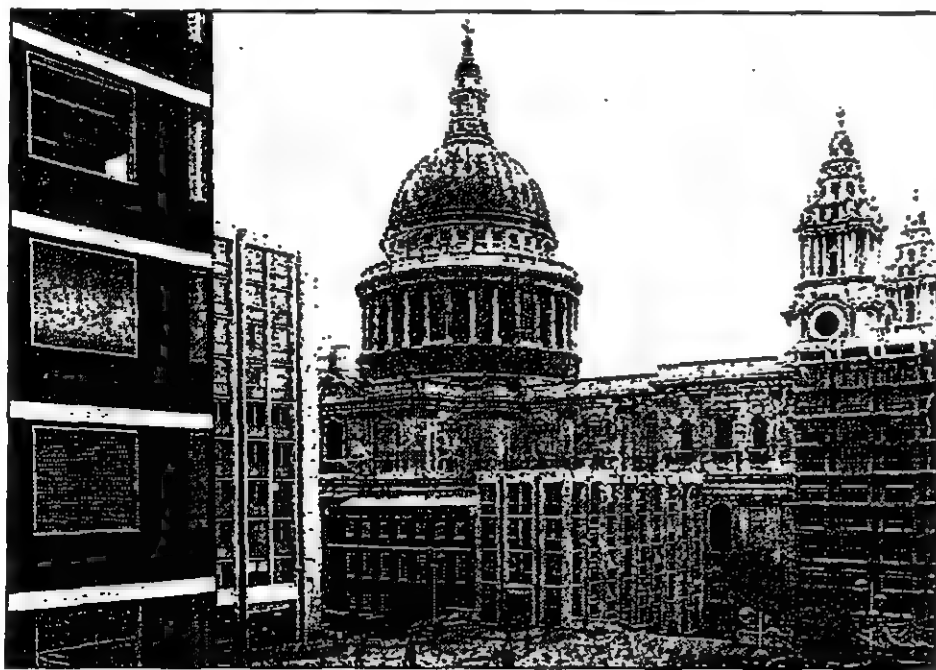
He is confident Paternoster's completion will coincide with a sustained recovery, particularly for the London office market where the economic conditions have been exacerbated by over-development. The planning application to build six new buildings, 80 shops and restaurants and a new central square could take a year to win approval. Demolition of existing buildings could then take six months, followed by a three-year construction period.

He added: "My belief is that we will be bringing Paternoster into the market at about the right time. I think 1993-6 will be a time when rent levels and yields will be significantly better than they are today."

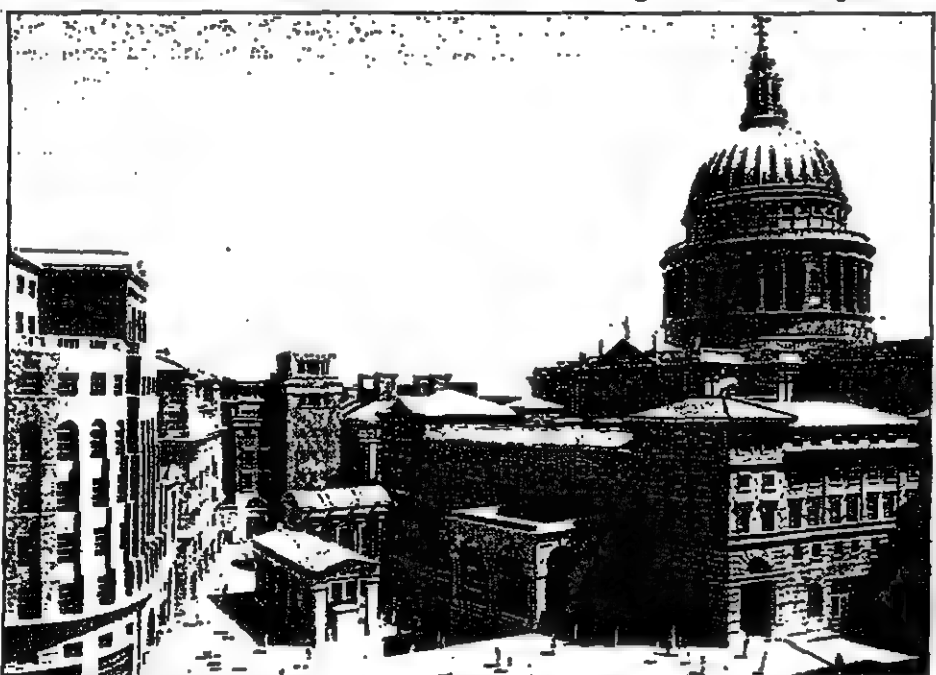
It is the prospect of such opportunities that sustains Greysteel through a commercial property slump that Mr Wilson says is worse than its 1974-5 fore-runner.

High interest rates and the imbalance between the supply of newly developed property and the demand for such space have driven the sector down. In the London market, new office space is available at less than half the £45 to £55 a sq ft that prevailed a couple of years ago. With a growing proportion of existing tenants succumbing to insolvency, and the few new tenants around able to drive harder bargains, the investment buyer — a buyer of completed and let buildings — has been rare.

Selling prices have fallen, dragging down the value of properties retained by property investment companies. Selling



Ugly neighbours: St Paul's overlooks the Sixties' buildings in Paternoster Square



Shape of things to come: a model shows how the square will look after redevelopment

prices and investment values are normally calculated by the yield that the rents on a building offer to a buyer. As buyers have been deterred by the high cost of borrowing and the deteriorating prospects for rental growth, selling yields have risen sharply, dragging the more conservative version used for valuation purposes up with them.

Hillier Parker estimates that in two years, office yields have risen from 6.9 per cent to 9.3 per cent. The impact has been to wipe billions of pounds off the property sector's balance sheet. Land Securities, for example, saw the value of its investment portfolio fall £1 billion. Lesser rivals have seen virtually no work with the speed at which the market

turned from boom to near-bust surprised everyone, Mr Wilson believes. "I have yet to meet a person who foresaw how quickly values were going to fall, or to what extent."

Greysteel saw the value of its investment portfolio fall 13.4 per cent. The three office blocks it completed and let last year performed well, however, dropping in value by less than 10 per cent.

Mr Wilson is as relaxed about the art/science of valuation as a man can be after seeing shareholders' funds tumble from £683 million to £469 million. "I think it has been very difficult for valuers, who, at times, have had to work with virtually no comparables at all. Valuers have taken a very tough line, but I'm not critical

of that. Property is a medium-to-long-term business. Unfortunately, for the last 25 years it has behaved as if it is a short-term business. People have got used to the idea of non-stop increases in value. Now an adjustment is taking place."

Greysteel, says Mr Wilson, will survive the adjustment to play its part in the strong recovery he expects, and needs, for Paternoster Square to be a success. But the bad news will continue for some time.

"I don't think now is a time for over-optimism. Now is the time for complete realism. Sometimes you develop your building and let it at the top of the market. Other times you quietly assemble your sites and wait. Now is a time to wait."

MATTHEW BOND

IN A paradoxical way, the slumping argument about executives' salaries might even be working to the advantage of the regional electricity companies. The acres of newspaper generated will be yesterday's fish and chips paper once the actual figures are known in August; but the affair has diverted attention from the enormous profit windfalls the industry is seeing.

Some might claim, although the company strenuously denies the suggestion, that Southern Electric has done its best to reduce the pre-tax line in the year to end-March. Actual historic cost profits before tax were £139.6 million, against a forecast in the prospectus of £122.7 million.

But contained within these are £19 million of provisions after the Barber case for equalisation of pensions, and £14 million to restructure the retailing and contracting business. Neither were in the prospectus; the Barber costs could have been spread over 13 years, but the company has chosen a one-off hit, while it is hard to see how retailing and contracting have changed drastically since November, when the prospectus was put together.

The provisions are prudent and in line with the best accounting practice, but without them, the company would presumably have had to announce pre-tax profits the best part of £50 million above estimates drawn up just seven months ago. Well may Duncan Ross, the Southern chairman, attempt some political damage limitation by raising the prospect of price rises lower than inflation next year.

Southern did particularly well because of its aggressive stance in the supply market. Forthcoming results from companies such as Manweb, which has taken the opposite view on high-risk supply contracts, will doubtless reflect this.

London Electricity, chaired by John Wilson, sits somewhere in the middle. Pre-tax profits came in 23 per cent ahead of the £115.6 million forecast, at £141.8 million. Just over £20 million of the additional profits came from higher than expected demand, while £5 million was from lower than forecast electricity costs. The supply business saw an £18 million turnaround from the forecast, producing a £9.8 million profit.

Blame for the windfalls lies with the government and its advisers for overestimating rates of inflation and for a too cautious approach to future energy costs.

The high cash flow, and the decision to hold back substantial capital investment on generation, reduced Southern's gearing by 10 percentage points from the forecast of 46 per cent. London is 26.5 per cent geared and expects to be in the low 20s by the year end. Excess profits, for political reasons, cannot be shovelled out to the shareholders. Some day soon, these companies are going to be substantially

TEMPUS

Ill wind blows to the advantage of power companies



Demand windfall: John Wilson, of London Electricity

under-borrowed and under City pressure to diversify, with all the attendant risks.

London's unit sales showed an impressive 4 per cent growth, half of that from the weather, while the rise at Southern was 4.9 per cent, with demand in the commercial sector jumping a remarkable 7.7 per cent. London offers a barely higher yield, 6.9 per cent prospective, but Southern, on 6.8 per cent and always highly regarded in the City, can be expected to outperform long term.

Scottish Power yesterday confirmed forecasts for 1990-1 drawn up a month ago. Both Scottish companies can be allowed some anger at the low

yield they were floated on; the SP shares now offer 5.6 per cent prospective, just 4p ahead of the offer price, and are going nowhere, while millions of disgruntled private investors remain locked in and waiting to take whatever profit becomes available.

BPB

A MARKET swash with building and construction paper might be forgiven for turning up its nose at BPB's request for £125.5 million, particularly since part of it is to pay this year's dividend.

There is a case however for believing that the best has

been saved until last. Not that BPB's immediate trading outlook is anything like encouraging. Almost halved profits of £69 million — if £21.8 million of exceptional are peeled out — are accompanied by a clear enough warning that the first six months of this year will be awful, and that there is little chance of any damage being repaired in the second half.

BPB's spending has mostly been done, with little recourse to its shareholders before now. Other than the £71 million vendor placing that financed the Rigips deal in 1987, no new paper has been issued during a five-year period in which the group has laid out £926 million on new plant and equipment and acquisitions.

The rights issue cash will be used to bring net gearing down from 52 per cent to a 35 per cent level that the group believes it can adhere to for the foreseeable future.

Much of the spending has been in Europe, where BPB is now a whisker short of half the market, and will continue as it steps up the pace of its staged acquisition of the Spanish Inverysa, and of its investment in Germany, where demand has soared in the wake of unification.

Britain now accounts for only 36 per cent of group turnover. While problems persist at home, however, where slump rather than recession is the word that Britain's building chiefs are using to describe current conditions, BPB cannot expect to make more than £35 million this year, or 8.3p of earnings.

A commitment to a maintained 11.25p dividend on the enlarged equity guarantees a 9.8 per cent yield, which in turn should underpin the share price, and persuade waverers to take up their rights.

RICHEMONT

Compagnie Financière Richemont AG, Zug, Switzerland

Consolidated results for the year ended March 31, 1991

The Board of Directors of Compagnie Financière Richemont AG is pleased to report the consolidated results of the group for the year ended March 31, 1991.

	1991	1990
Gross sales revenue	£6,448.5 m	£5,905.3 m
Net sales revenue	£2,988.3 m	£2,861.5 m
Net profit attributable to unitholders	£177.3 m	£146.3 m
Earnings per unit	£308.70	£254.70
Dividend per unit	£50.62½	£41.25
Unitholders' funds	£1,141.0 m	£977.0 m
Net assets per unit	£1,987.10	£1,701.50

For the year ended March 31, 1991 Richemont has produced satisfactory results with good performances from both the tobacco and luxury goods interests. Net profit attributable to unitholders increased by 21.2 per cent to £177.3 million on gross sales revenues of £6,448.5 million, some 9.2 per cent higher than in the prior year.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the dividend to be paid to unitholders in respect of the year will be £50.62½ per unit.

Richemont operates in the fields of tobacco products and luxury goods. Richemont's tobacco interests are held through Rothmans International p.l.c., whose group operating companies produce a wide range of cigarettes, cigars and smoking tobaccos. Its investments in the luxury goods industry are held through its controlling interests in Cartier Monde SA, including Cartier, Piaget and Baume & Mercier, and Dunhill Holdings PLC, including Alfred Dunhill, Montblanc and Chloé.

Copies of the annual report can be obtained from the Company Secretary at the addresses listed below:

Compagnie Financière Richemont AG Weinbergstrasse 5 6300 Zug, Switzerland Telephone: (042) 21 03 64 Telefax: (042) 21 71 02	Richemont International Limited 15 Hill Street London W1X 7FB, England Telephone: (071) 499 2539 Telefax: (071) 491 0524
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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New faces and places

ANDREW Melrose, construction analyst at Warburg Securities until he was axed in a round of job-cuts in February, is bouncing back. Red-headed Melrose, aged 36, joins Nomura on Monday, and has shown a remarkable flair for timing. For he left Greiverson Grant for Warburg in 1987, just as his wife gave birth to their first child, Emily. Now, the couple has followed through with a son, Alasdair, who was born last week. "They seem to have planned it well," says an associate. Also on the move is Piers Harford

who has left the Bristol offices of Albert E. Sharp, the regional stockbroker.

A COUPLE from Belfast were in London for the annual



meeting of Maxwell Communication Corporation. After the formal business, Robert Maxwell came down to chat. "So you're from Ireland?" he enquired. "I'm a great friend of Charlie Haughey," they told their shares the next day.

Lost bets

JOHN Howell, who runs the East European department of Ernst & Young, was in Moscow last week. While there, he was whisked off to a launch reception for the Casino Royale. Sadly, the evening was rather muted. For E&Y, which was the first foreign firm of accountants to set up in Moscow, is acting as audi-

tor to the casino, and staff are forbidden from taking a punt. Closer to home, a Mori survey confirms what we all thought: accountants are boring. Nearly a third of senior managers in the Broadgate Poll agreed they were boring, but, typically, 17 per cent of could not decide either way.

Missing Milan

IN THESE times of savage job cuts, Kidder Peabody, a Wall Street firm, has done little to lift morale in its Italian office. Executives were horrified to find Milan missing from the list of international locations in Kidder's annual report. An embarrassed Kidder official in

New York says it was a mistake, and not a way of announcing further cuts.

Rat race

NOMURA clocked up another victory on Wednesday when it won the Rat Race, a charity romp through the Square Mile. A team led by Ayesha Shah, an executive director on the swaps team, took just over an hour to complete the course, using a London taxi disguised as a rat. Clifford Chance managed second place followed by Network SouthEast. Dewi Rogers helped organise the event with Children in Cities.

JON ASHWORTH

Tate speaks for 45% of Bundaberg

TATE and Lyle has raised its stake in Bundaberg Sugar, of Queensland, to 45 per cent after receiving further acceptances for its Aus\$4.10 (£1.92) a share offer.

The British sweeteners group had said the offer would lapse if it did not receive 50 per cent acceptances by today but indicated yesterday that it may be prepared to reconsider.

Camellia slips

Profits at Camellia Investments, the tea plantation and historical manuscript owner, slipped by a quarter to £20.4 million in the year to end-December after a 21 per cent fall in turnover to £181 million. The dividend for the year rises by 2p to 23p.

Fairey sells

Fairey Group, the specialised engineering company, is selling its property at Heston, west London, to General Accident for £9 million. The written down value of the asset is £4.3 million but the impact on earnings will be "neutral".

Rothmans lifts profit and increases payout

By OUR CITY STAFF

ROTHMANS International, the tobacco to luxury goods group, has overcome the effects of the Gulf war and the recession to increase its pre-tax profits by £58 million, taking them from £484.5 million up to £542.5 million.

After a lower tax charge and a fall in minority interests after last October's mopping up of the outstanding share in PJ Carroll, earnings have surged 21.9 per cent to 78.5p a share.

The board is lifting the final dividend on the ordinary and B shares from 9.2p to 11.7p, making a total of 18.5p for the year, a rise of 20 per cent.

The pre-tax figure would have been £28 million higher but for the strengthening of sterling against the dollar during the year, but since most was attributable to the minority interests, the adverse effect on attributable profits was only £4 million. Lord Swaythling, the executive chairman, said tobacco profits had increased 8 per cent to £351.5 million, while sales advanced 7 per cent from last year.

The improvement in margins was achieved in spite of additional spending in eastern European and northeast Asian



Swaythling: profits leap

markets. Sales of luxury products, which primarily represent the controlling interest in Dunhill Holdings, dipped 8 per cent.

Profits, however, leapt from £49.4 million to £55.1 million, a performance Lord Swaythling attributes to improved efficiencies and productivity gains.

Associates brought in £77 million against £65.3 million, the bulk of it from the 17 per cent stake in Cartier Monde, whose 17 per cent increase was whittled down to 3 per cent at £71.4 million on translation into sterling.

Rothmans' other activities ran up a £6.4 million loss. They reflected the £7.6 million cost of withdrawing from confectionery distribution in Australia.

Cash holdings improved by £12 million to £714 million, split almost equally between Rothmans International and the group's partly owned companies.

T&N to control Osinek

By OUR CITY STAFF

T&N, the British engineering group, is to take a controlling stake in Osinek, the Czechoslovakian manufacturer of friction materials for the automotive, rail and industrial sectors, by subscribing for new shares. The cost of the transaction has not been disclosed.

The investment follows a provisional agreement with the Prague government, which will retain a minority holding.

T&N will help finance the reorganisation and upgrading of Osinek's plant and equipment, increasing capacity and expanding product range. T&N will also give marketing, financial and technical help.

Osinek, which is the only domestic producer of friction materials, provides 80 to 90 per cent of the local market for textile products in areas such as heat sealing and industrial belting. It was converted to a joint stock company last December.

The new board will include representatives of T&N and the government. Talks on terms continue.

Ex-Lands to raise further £4.9m for German projects

By MATTHEW BOND

EX-LANDS, the golf and leisure company, is asking shareholders for more money less than 14 months after raising £8 million through a rights issue.

Now guided by Graham and Robert Bourne, Ex-Lands is seeking £4.9 million through a one-for-three rights issue at 31p. Last year's rights was a one-for-one at 33p. The latest issue has been fully underwritten by Smith New Court.

Most of the new money will pay for the development of Ex-Lands' two golf-related ventures in Germany, at Hamburg and Stuttgart. A smaller proportion will fund work at the company's French development at Vichy, where a 25 per cent interest was acquired last year with the proceeds of the first rights issue.

The German and French developments are being carried out jointly with Mark McCormack's International

Management Group. IMG paid 40p a share recently to acquire a 1.5 per cent stake in Ex-Lands and has an option to raise that to 2 per cent before July 31. The money raised through IMG's subscription for new shares will be used to pay for Ex-Lands' increased investment in Vichy which, under an agreement signed last month, could rise to 50 per cent.

Ex-Lands' move into golf came after the Bourne brothers, who together built up the Local London business centre group, bought half of a 27 per cent stake Charles and Maurice Saatchi owned in Ex-Lands.

The Saatchis have retained a 10.1 per cent stake in the company, matching the stake now owned by the Bourne. Both the Bourne and the Saatchis have given irrevocable undertakings to take up their rights.

Directors cut pay after fall

By OUR CITY STAFF

DIRECTORS of Beckenham Group, the heating engineer and tool distributor, are taking pay cuts after pre-tax profits fell from £2.86 million to £746,000 in the six months to the end of April.

Earnings slumped from 4p a share to 1p and the interim dividend is being reduced from 1.5p a share to 0.5p. The company gave warning that trading conditions remained difficult. Beckenham shares fell from 29p to 23p.

Christopher Egleton, the chairman, said directors' remuneration was being reduced as part of a programme to reduce costs by £500,000. Mr Egleton and Harry Westropp, the managing director, have agreed to take pay cuts while Barry Bartman, the corporate finance director, will work part-time.

Peter Legge is stepping down from the board but will continue to run the manufacturing division. Bill Cox is retiring and will not be replaced immediately.

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STRATEGY

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The Geoteam Group of companies are primarily involved in geophysical data acquisition, navigation, seismic data processing and interpretation. Activities are both onshore and offshore, with the main clients being the major oil companies. Offices are located in Oslo, Houston, Singapore, Great Yarmouth and Aberdeen.

Geoteam Exploration Ltd. A/S and its affiliated company in the U.S. are presently expanding into 3D marine seismic exploration. The first high technology 3D survey vessel, Geo Explorer, has recently been commissioned. This expansion has created vacancies for the following positions onboard the vessel:

Party Chiefs - Applicants should have a minimum of 4 years experience within the seismic industry. Previous experience in this position is preferred.

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Applicants for the above positions should have a minimum of 3 years experience within the seismic industry. Previous experience in the position being applied for is preferred.

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Applicants should have a B.Sc. or equivalent in electronics, computer science, geodesy or in a related discipline. No additional experience is necessary.

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All applications will be treated in strictest confidence.

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Requirements: ♦ sound experience as a senior secretary, preferably in an international organisation; ♦ familiarity with the use of a PC for word processing is necessary.

Age: between 30 and 40 years.

Languages: applicants must be fluent in either English or French and have a good working knowledge of the other language. Knowledge of other languages would be an advantage.

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Application forms and further details can be obtained from:

EUROCONTROL, Personnel Division,
rue de la Loi 72, B-1040 Brussels.

Completed forms should be returned to the above address, quoting the above reference, before 5 August 1991.

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Salary: A\$67,812 plus allow.
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For further information contact Dr David Wilmoth, Associate Director (Higher Education), telephone: (03) 960 2002 (for overseas: 61-3-660-2002).

A position description may be obtained from Human Resources Management Group, by phoning (03) 680 4600 or fax (03) 683 4453. Applications in writing and quoting Reference Number, should be addressed to Senior Appointments Officer by Friday 16th August, 1991.

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Technical Adviser Marine Fuel Technology

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Responsibility

The Technical Adviser will be responsible for evaluating and reporting on fuel-analysis results, and providing shipowners with technical assistance in respect of fuel treatment and optimum engine performance.

Training

It is anticipated that the appointed candidate will commence employment in September this year and undergo training in another VSP laboratory prior to taking up the permanent position in Rotterdam.

Remuneration Package

Salary according to qualifications and experience.

The benefits are those you would expect from a first-class employer.

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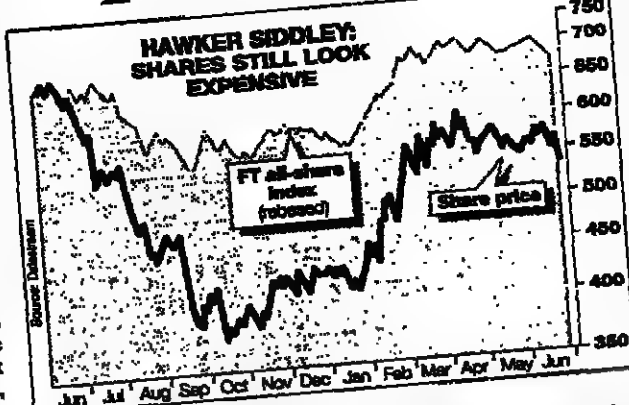
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B-1200 Brussels, Belgium
Attn: Recruitment

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THE TIMES FRIDAY JUNE 28 1991

STOCK MARKET

Index goes back above 2,450 as Bonn pegs interest rates



The shares, which have a big bid premium included, are regarded as expensive. BPB Industries, the plasterboard manufacturer, fell 15p to 184p after reporting a drop in profits and plans to raise £125.5 million. Greycoat Properties rose 13p to 256p despite going into the red. Dealers said there was relief that the figures had not been accompanied by a rights issue.

A cash call, however, for £20.5 million by Countrywide Properties left the shares 15p lower at 95p. Green Property jumped 15p to 95p after the news that it had received a number of approaches that could lead to a bid or alter the direction of the company. The full-year figures from Rothmans International were favourably received with the price surging 39p to 974p. There was another clutch of trading statements from the utilities. Recently privatised South-eastern Electric was unchanged at 177p despite reporting better than expected full-year pre-tax profit.

MICHAEL CLARK

Dow rises in early dealings

New York BLUE chips were modestly higher in morning trading. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 16 points to 2,929.01. Personal income and consumption figures for May, which were in line with expectations, had little impact on prices. Tokyo - Prices closed easier. Despite relief that the scandal-tainted brokers had managed to hold their shareholders' meetings without incident, buyers quickly deserted an abortive afternoon rally and small-lot sales continued to put pressure on prices. The Nikkei index ended down 223.35 points, or 0.94 per cent, to 23,543.03. Hong Kong - Shares, lacking any news to shift sentiment, drifted higher in the morning and lower in the afternoon as dull trading. The Hang Seng index slid 4.85 points to 3,629.79. Sydney - Fears of a slump in Japan pushed shares lower in the early dealings. The all-ordinaries index fell 6.1 to 1,500.8. Frankfurt - Shares ended a volatile day lower. The Dax index closed 6.05 points down at 1,666.09. (Reuters)

WALL STREET

	Jan 27 Monday	Jan 28 Tuesday	Jan 29 Wednesday	Jan 30 Thursday	Jan 31 Friday	Jan 31 Friday
Abnott Lab	52 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2	51 1/2
Abram Life	41	41	41	41	41	41
Academy	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Ac Proder	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
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Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2	41 1/2
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Adams	40 1/2	41 1/2				

MONEY MARKETS

WALL STREET JOURNAL

which with 1985 was same at 89.7 (day's range 89.6-89.7).

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

1-3 month	1.0000
1-75-074p	2.04-2.02
1-84-05-30p	0.96-0.97
1-90-11p	1.16-1.16p
1-95-19p	35-38p
2-1-15p	33-35p
1-95-40p	40-42p
1-95-75p	110-130p
16-21-00	44-54s
1-95-44s	50p-110p
1-95-50p	5-7p
1-11-14p	33-31p
1-95-17p	17-19p
1-95-19p	19-21p
1-95-21p	21-23p
1-95-23p	23-25p
1-95-25p	25-27p
1-95-27p	27-29p

Week close: 11%
10p=1% 3 mths: 11-10p

10p=10% 11p=12
11p=11 11p=10

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OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	1630.0-1528.7
Australia dollar	2.1249-2.1278
Bahian cruzeiro	0.812-0.820
Brazil cruzeiro*	500.1-500.7
Cyprus pound	0.785-0.786
Finland mark	5.9075-5.9085
Greece drachma	319.15-322.35
Hong Kong dollar	16.9320-16.9344
India rupee	84.24-84.34
Kuwait dirham	4.0000-4.0000
Malaysia ringgit	4.8300-4.8404
New Zealand dollar	2.8222-2.8232
Saudi Arabian riyal	6.8995-6.9195
Singapore dollar	3.7600-3.7600
S Africa rand (fin)	5.3730-5.3830
S Africa rand (com)	4.8914-4.8992
T/A S. African	5.0000-5.0075
Ukraine hryvnia	1.0000-1.0000
Ukraine hryvnia	1.0000-1.0000

Week close: 11%
10p=1% 3 mths: 11-10p

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DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.4885-1.4900
Singapore	1.7843-1.7853
Malaysia	2.7802-2.7812
1.3022-1.3034	
Canada	1.1224-1.1229
Sweden	4.6870-4.6870
Switzerland	7.0000-7.0050
Denmark	0.9330-0.9320
West Germany	1.7940-1.7950
Netherlands	2.2015-2.2025
France	6.0870-6.0820
Italy	1.3615-1.3635
Japan	2.3535-2.3535
Belgium (Frank)	36.35-36.35
Hong Kong	7.2430-7.2430
Portugal	155.80-155.80
Spain	160.00-112.40
Austria	13.85-13.84

Week close: 11%
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COMMODITIES

COCOA	
Jul	577-575
Aug	581-579
Sep	585-583
Oct	589-587
Nov	593-591
Dec	597-595
Jan	601-599
Feb	605-603
Mar	609-607
Apr	613-611
May	617-615
Jun	621-619
Jul	625-623
Aug	629-627
Sep	633-631
Oct	637-635
Nov	641-639
Dec	645-643
Jan	649-647
Feb	653-651
Mar	657-655
Apr	661-659
May	665-663
Jun	669-667
Jul	673-671

COFFEE

COFFEE	
Jul	542-540
Aug	546-544
Sep	550-548
Oct	554-552
Nov	558-556
Dec	562-560
Jan	566-564
Feb	570-568
Mar	574-572
Apr	578-576
May	582-580
Jun	586-584
Jul	590-588
Aug	594-592
Sep	598-596
Oct	602-600
Nov	606-604
Dec	610-608
Jan	614-612
Feb	618-616
Mar	622-620
Apr	626-624
May	630-628
Jun	634-632
Jul	638-636
Aug	642-640
Sep	646-644
Oct	650-648
Nov	654-652
Dec	658-656
Jan	662-660
Feb	666-664
Mar	670-668
Apr	674-672
May	678-676
Jun	682-680
Jul	686-684
Aug	690-688
Sep	694-692
Oct	698-696
Nov	702-700
Dec	706-704
Jan	710-708
Feb	714-712
Mar	718-716
Apr	722-720
May	726-724
Jun	730-728
Jul	734-732
Aug	738-736
Sep	742-740
Oct	746-744
Nov	750-748
Dec	754-752
Jan	758-756
Feb	762-760
Mar	766-764
Apr	770-768
May	774-772
Jun	778-776
Jul	782-780
Aug	786-784
Sep	790-788
Oct	794-792
Nov	798-796
Dec	802-800
Jan	806-804
Feb	810-808
Mar	814-812
Apr	818-816
May	822-820
Jun	826-824
Jul	830-828
Aug	834-832
Sep	838-836
Oct	842-840
Nov	846-844
Dec	850-848
Jan	854-852
Feb	858-856
Mar	862-860
Apr	866-864
May	870-868
Jun	874-872
Jul	878-876
Aug	882-880
Sep	886-884
Oct	890-888
Nov	894-892
Dec	898-896
Jan	902-900
Feb	906-904
Mar	910-908
Apr	914-912
May	918-916
Jun	922-920
Jul	926-924
Aug	930-928
Sep	934-932
Oct	938-936
Nov	942-940
Dec	946-944
Jan	950-948
Feb	954-952
Mar	958-956
Apr	962-960
May	966-964
Jun	970-968

July 1941

Cautious steps on the road to democracy

Roh Tae Woo, South Korea's first democratically elected president, has become accustomed to annual springtime demands for his resignation, and this year the student demonstrations were particularly violent, leading to several deaths. He is, however, entitled to be optimistic about completing his term in early 1993.

After three decades of authoritarian regimes, military coups and political assassinations, Mr Roh is steering his country through a tumultuous transitional period along the path towards democracy. Weighing up his three and a half years in office to date, many already cite his greatest achievement as being the avoidance of a serious incident that could, until only two years ago, have sent the nation reeling back to a military dictatorship.

Caution is still Mr Roh's watchword. Ignoring his detractors, who call him a "lame duck", he has picked his way along a central path, taking care not to antagonise the still numerous fanatics to his left and right.

His gradualist policy seems to be working. Mr Roh has carried out enough of his promises to maintain stability, while scoring some notable international diplomatic advances for South Korea and presiding over an economy that is expected to grow at a rate of between 9 and 10 per cent this year, making it the envy of most of Asia.

The greatest challenges for Mr Roh have been in domestic politics. This year's annual student demonstrations have been more violent and more desperate than any since 1987.

A spite of suicides by radicals calling for the downfall of Mr Roh shocked the country, however, and alienated the masses from the students, who had always been regarded as the "conscience of the nation". Most South



After decades of upheaval, a new era is dawning in South Korea.

Joanna Pitman outlines how

President Roh Tae Woo (above) has ignored detractors and picked his way along a central path

Koreans consider themselves middle-class, and are fully committed to stability and law and order.

Although they abhor the violent tactics of the radicals, they do not show great support for Mr Roh, however. The popularity of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), formed last year in a merger between Mr Roh's Democratic Justice Party and two opposition groups, has slipped to less than 20 per cent in most polls this year. A Korea Gallup poll showed that 60 per cent have no political allegiance at all.

This has not made Mr

Roh's intensive agenda of political democratisation easy. The agenda is dominated by the reintroduction, after a 30 year lapse, of local autonomy, and South Korea has already had two sets of local elections this year. The government is committed to holding national assembly elections by April 1992, and elections for mayors and provincial governors by the following June, before ending the year with the presidential election, probably in December.

The intensive electioneering schedule has exposed the immaturity of Korean politics. The most recent elections, held for city councils and provincial seats last week, swept the DLP to victory, but emphasised that regionalism still dominates the political scene. The main opposition party, the New Democratic Party (NDP), headed by Kim Dae Jung, the veteran politician, showed again that it was strong in the southwest but could make little headway elsewhere.

Mud-slinging and charges of corruption colour every election, and public distrust of politicians has kept voter turnout low. Political indifference is proving the biggest obstacle to change.

Lee Dong-bok, special assistant to the prime minister, says: "I fear that the development of political maturity will take much longer than we expected. Politics is still in turmoil." Na Jong-il, the dean of the graduate school at Kyonghee university, adds: "We still reveal too much in the theatrical side."

The past year has certainly seen some dramatic recasting of personalities in the government. Ministers have left office in the wake of scandals, and last month, in response to the weeks of street demonstrations, the prime minister, Ro Jai Bong, resigned after only five months in office, to be succeeded by Chung Won Shik. No present cabinet



Violence: student demonstrations at their peak



Calm: Seoul is now the capital of a thriving economy

member held his position before 1990.

With every step towards fully-fledged democracy has come a louder articulation of demands for more social and political reforms, a heightening of tensions and more insecurity following the rapid pace of change.

The typical South Korean is less concerned with election pledges than with rising inflation, prohibitive housing costs, environmental problems, a growing crime rate and corruption scandals.

He is also, however, more affluent and more free than his parents were. The national

security act, a relic of totalitarian days, has been revised, and civil liberties are better respected. The press has a good degree of freedom.

The vicissitudes of South Korean politics should be viewed against the backdrop of the country's main asset, its robust economy.

After several years of shrinking exports, which had been eroded by rising labour costs and adverse exchange rates, the economy is showing signs of rejuvenation. Government research institutes are revising their predictions of real growth of the gross national product for 1991 from 8

per cent to between 9 and 10 per cent.

Mr Roh has perhaps been most successful on the international scene, with his "northern policy". Capitalising on East-West détente, he has pursued fast-track negotiations with two of North Korea's traditional allies.

He has met Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet president, three times in ten months, and last September agreed to open diplomatic relations with Moscow.

South Korea has also developed closer relations with

China, particularly in trade, and has now virtually assured itself of a seat in the United Nations later this year.

The most striking result of this has been the stark policy reversal of the severely isolationist regime in Pyongyang, which had maintained that the two Koreas should share a seat at the UN. North Korea abandoned this position in May, announcing its intention to submit its own application.

Mr Roh's ultimate goal is an easing of tensions between the two Koreas, which are still divided by a heavily militarised border, the last Cold War demarcation line still intact.

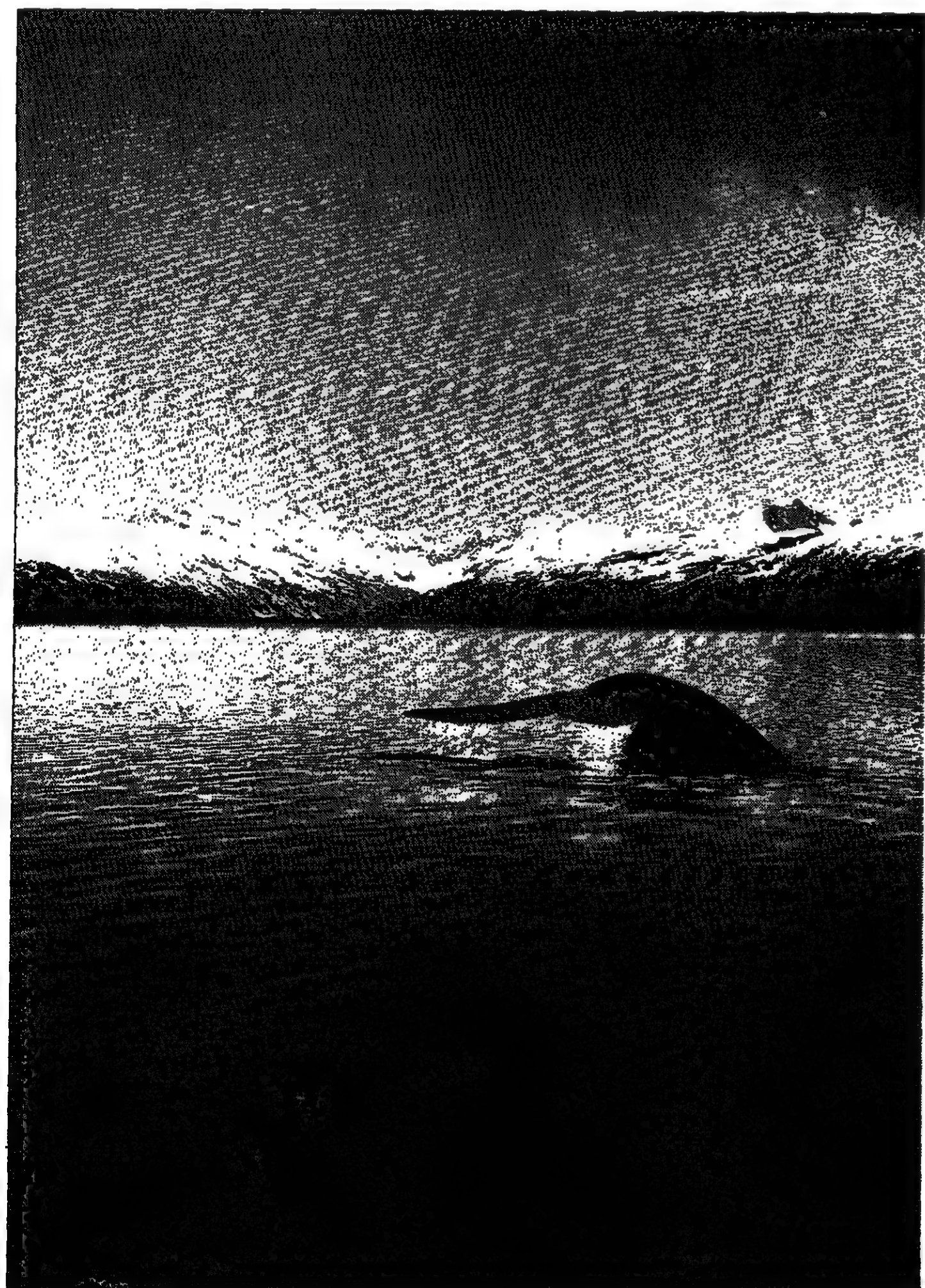
Most South Korean parliamentarians, however, are sober about the prospects of unification, having witnessed the German experience. The most optimistic speak of a decade before possible unification: others of two or three. Until then, Mr Roh has to persevere with patience in his struggles towards political and social change, while keeping the expectations of the people in check.

Many criticise him as a directionless leader, lacking drive, but his gradualist, almost colourless approach may turn out to be his greatest gift to South Korea.

He out



In rise



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Trading links with the Soviet Union and China have been made possible by a booming economy. Brian Bridges reviews the new foreign policy

Hands stretch out to Moscow

The centrepiece of the sixth floor of the Lotte department store in Seoul last April was a stand selling 6in dolls of Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet president himself was talking at the time to President Roh Tae Woo on Cheju island, the southernmost point of South Korea, while Mrs Gorbachev was wandering around the island's shops buying "instant noodles" to take back to Moscow.

For South Korea, which has made anti-communism an article of faith for more than four decades, the scenes were evidence of diplomatic success, and a measure of the changes that have taken place on the Korean peninsula, which has seemed frozen in the old Cold War mould since the Korean war of 1950-53.

Another sign is the virtual certainty that both South and North Korea will be admitted to the United Nations this autumn. Seoul had announced it would apply, and as first the Russians and then the Chinese made it clear they would not veto the application, North Korea was forced to follow suit, abandoning its long-held position that there should be only one Korean seat.

At home, Mr Roh has had economic and political problems, but he has found compensation during the past year in a remarkable extension to his "northern diplomacy",

intended to bridge the gap with North Korea. The rationale was that developing economic and political contacts with the socialist allies of North Korea would push the North into a more positive mode. Mr Roh achieved his most dramatic breakthrough with the Soviet Union. In June 1990 he flew to San Francisco for an unprecedented meeting with Mr Gorbachev. Three months

Gorbachev has switched from giving help to the North to receiving it from the South

later diplomatic relations were established.

In April Mr Gorbachev was the first president of the Soviet Union to visit either part of Korea, and it was much to the chagrin of Kim Il-sung, the North's authoritarian leader, that he chose his newest capitalist friend, South Korea, over his old communist ally in the North.

As the Soviet Union's economic problems have mounted, Mr Gorbachev's interest has switched from acting as a

provider of aid to ailing North Korea to being a recipient of aid, trade and investment from the South.

North Korea's other main ally, China, has been more cautious, but not immune to Mr Roh's diplomatic offensive. Despite the Chinese leadership's reluctance to annoy Mr Kim, its ideological soul-mate, by copying the Soviet recognition, Chinese pragmatism has led not only to the development of a lively trade, and an exchange of trade offices, with South Korea but, more significantly, to subtle pressure on North Korea to accept the changing realities of northeast Asia.

Seoul's dialogue with North Korea itself has lagged well behind. Nevertheless, the two sides are edging warily towards each other. An unprecedented series of three meetings was held between the prime ministers of the two Koreas last winter, low-level indirect trade has begun — and a joint table tennis team won the world championships.

North Korea made a dramatic about-turn in applying for separate membership of the UN, and it has agreed under pressure to discuss the inspection of its nuclear facilities with the International Atomic Energy Authority.

These changes of policy are driven primarily by Pyongyang's ideological isolation and economic stagnation. Mr



A toast to good relations: Mikhail Gorbachev and Roh Tae Woo confirm trade and diplomatic links as the one-time enemy nations become allies

Kim has had to temper his much vaunted self-sufficiency in the hope of obtaining economic assistance from the West and, above all, from Japan.

He is trying to sell dearly his only bargaining card — the threat to build nuclear weapons — but his new flexibility so far extends mainly to attempting to improve relations with Japan and the United States. Until Pyongyang begins a substantial dialogue with the South, the Roh government will continue to view the North with suspicion.

The US, despite its continuing criticism of South Korean economic practices and its

stated intention to phase down its military commitment, is clearly still deeply concerned about stability on the peninsula, and in its North Korean policy is unlikely to move too far ahead of South Korean tolerance.

The South Koreans feel more suspicious of Japanese intentions. The legacy of history, and of Japanese domination, complicates present differences of views. The normalisation of Japan-North Korean relations is likely to worsen Japan-South Korean relations in the short term. However, in the longer term, the Japanese involvement in North Korea can only bring

change to that society, pushing it closer to the South.

Mr Roh told his cabinet last week that reunification of the peninsula was possible by the mid Nineties, or by 2000 at the latest. North Korea is deeply suspicious, however, of German-style "unification by absorption", and South Korea has made a sober appreciation of the economic and sociopolitical costs of Germany's rapid reunification, compared with the initial euphoria after the Berlin Wall came down. That suggests that later rather than sooner is still the best bet.

● The author is an associate fellow of the Royal Institute of International Affairs



Exporting Korean know-how and expertise: the Daewoo electronics factory in Northern Ireland

Growth with a little fear

How much longer can the economy sustain its 30 year expansion rate?

Another year of 9 per cent real growth in gross national product is expected in the South Korean economy, but both Koreans and foreigners are fretting about the side-effects of growth and are asking whether it can continue. In other words, 1991 is just like every other year since 1961.

Every year there is the same question and the same sense of crisis. When an economy grows at a yearly average of 8.4 per cent for 30 years, every year is described as a year of transition.

The average for the past six years has been 10.1 per cent. This has left some problems, because the government plans for 7 to 7.5 per cent and then retroactively adjusts upwards. The result is that some infrastructural investment is trailing behind. Ports, highways and electricity generation facilities are all being constructed at breakneck speed, and there is serious concern about the reserve generating capacity during the summer peak.

This pace of public investment both accelerates growth

further and releases money, which drives up prices.

South Korea suffers much from comparison with Japan. Unlike Japan, it has no long history of trade surpluses, and in the recent acceleration imports have outstripped exports. Yet both the United States and now the European Community are trying to pressure South Korea as though it were indeed a little Japan.

Seoul has responded with gradual liberalisations. It has reduced import tariffs, permitting the import of previously banned agricultural items, notably bananas; will allow foreign companies to enter the retail market next month; and finally, at a date to be announced, but probably in January 1992, will open the capital market to foreign investors and foreign security companies.

The main issues are seen by Koreans themselves as rising prices and a general feeling that the economy is out of control. Officially, consumer prices rose by almost 10 per cent in 1990, and a higher rise is feared in 1991.

These fears seem to be exaggerated. The main element in inflation — rocketing housing prices, which are not well reflected in the price index — appears to be showing a slight fall, as the huge number of houses and flats built in the last 18 months affects the market.

The feeling of many that the economy is out of control is

believe the projections for growth coming from their Seoul offices.

As a general rule, foreign business in South Korea is now restructuring its operation from producing for export to producing or importing for the domestic market. A new wave of investment, however, is beginning with a view to supplying components to South Korea, or for production aimed at Japan or China. South Korea sees one of its

main advantages as its geographical position, between a booming China, also growing at 10 per cent a year, and a mature, rich and expensive Japan. Dependence on exports to the US has dropped from 40 per cent in 1986 to about 28 per cent in 1991, and to Europe from 15-16 per cent to 11 per cent.

Asia is now absorbing 50-55 per cent of South Korea's exports, and Asia is booming, while the West is just coming out of the recession.

TONY MICHELL
● The author is the managing director of the East Asian Business Consultancy

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Consumerism worries people, but it is always somebody else's consumption

less easy to counter. The argument goes that a growth rate of more than 8 per cent causes overheating. However, as it was only in 1988 that many foreign and Korean experts believed the rapid increase in wages in 1987-88 would cause widespread unemployment, the only sure thing about South Korea is that its economy will keep growing, and this year's burning issue will be forgotten within two years.

South Koreans are in two minds about the growth. There is concern about the growth of consumerism, but it is always somebody else's consumption that is blamed. Moreover, as incomes rise rapidly, yesterday's unnecessary extravagance becomes today's necessity, whether it is cars or video cameras.

Among foreign businessmen in Seoul there are two camps. Foreign investment has fallen for two years, and for many this confirms the opinion that there are problems in the economy. For others, the main problem is not in Korea, but in head offices in Europe and the United States that do not

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Waterside tranquillity: tourists arriving on the shores of Lake Pocheon near the small town of Kyongju, which was the capital of the ancient Shilla kingdom and where visitors can view the tomb-mounds in beautiful landscaped parks

Korea is traditionally known as the "Land of Morning Calm". Little of this is visible when the visitor arrives in Seoul, a busy, crowded metropolis remarkable for its traffic jams. However, even Seoul has its oases of peace, and outside the rapidly growing capital there are areas where little has changed for hundreds of years.

South Korea is a mountainous country, with spectacular natural scenery in its national parks, particularly Mount Soraksan in the northeast. In the valleys it appears that every square inch is taken up with the age-old activity of growing rice, as tiny paddy fields one above the other form an intricate and absorbing pattern. Villages still have simple wooden posts, carved with fuses, placed there to ward off evil.

Over the centuries Korea has been fought over and many of its ancient monuments destroyed, most recently in the Korean war of 1950-53. However, at Kyongju, for instance, a small town in the southeast of the country, which was the first capital of a unified Korea from the 7th to the 10th centuries, some survive, and the big grass-covered mounds over its royal tombs have a peaceful quality.

Twenty years ago, tourism was in its infancy. Since then, and particularly since the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988, there has been a rapid increase in the number of tourists. Facilities range from luxurious hotels to traditional Korean inns, in which guests sleep

Morning calm and city bustle

Peter Strafford discovers a land full of contrasts, from its fast-growing capital to its Buddhist temples

on a mattress, or *yo*, laid on the floor. In 1993 there is to be an international exhibition, Expo 93, at Taejon, south of Seoul. In 1994 Seoul will celebrate the 600th anniversary of its foundation with a programme of cultural performances, folk festivals, processions and exhibitions, and the year has

been declared Visit Korea Year. Seoul is a largely modern city built on the banks of the river Han, with views of the wooded mountains that form a jagged semi-circle around its northern rim. Traffic passes the picturesque old city gates, the Namdaemun and Tongdaemun, and street markets, where

one can buy anything from leather jackets to ginseng roots. There are also several old royal palaces, lovingly restored and redolent of a more leisurely time. The Kyongbokkung palace is among the gardens behind the National Museum, with its collection of Korean art. The Changdokkung palace, the

best preserved, is surrounded by a *piwon*, or secret garden, that has woods and carefully designed pools, flanked by pavilions. By way of contrast, there is the war museum, complete with tanks, guns and other military equipment of the Korean war. As a reminder that there is still unfinished busi-

ness between South and North Korea, there is the bleak village of Panmunjom, in the demilitarised zone north of Seoul. It is one of the last outposts of the Cold War, with the conference room in which delegates from the two sides have been meeting unfruitfully for nearly 40 years.

Kyongju and the broad valley in which it lies are a different world. This was the capital of the Shilla kingdom, one of three into which early Korea was divided. After AD676, when Shilla defeated the other two kingdoms, Kyongju became the capital of the whole country. The great tomb-mounds with which it is dotted are now in landscaped parks and are the most conspicuous relic of those days.

Several miles away is the Buddhist temple of Pulguksa, a complex of courtyards, pagodas and halls, built up the slope of a wooded hill, with a lake at its foot. Pulguksa has been rebuilt in recent times. It was burnt down in the Japanese invasions of the 1590s. Although the use of concrete is unfortunate, it is an impressive reminder of the days when Buddhism reigned supreme. Not far from Pulguksa is the Sokkuram grotto. It has one of the masterpieces of Buddhist art in east Asia, a huge statue of Buddha made in AD752. The little cave, which now has a pavilion built over it, has other Buddhist figures carved on the walls.

The visitor needs days to see everything in the museum, the landscaped Anapchi pond with its islands and pavilions, the 7th century astronomical observatory and other historical sites. It typifies ancient Korea, in marked contrast to the bustle of today.

● Korean Air has non-stop flights three times a week between Heathrow and Seoul. Economy return fare: £1,300. Package tours: Far East Travel Centre (071-734 9318)



A distinctive celadon vase

Artists of warmth and humanity

THE art of Korea, less well known in Britain than that of its two big neighbours, China and Japan, is beginning to make its mark (*Peter Strafford writes*). The Fitzwilliam museum in Cambridge opened a new gallery last year wholly devoted to Korea, principally its ceramics, and both the Victoria & Albert museum and the British Museum have plans for new displays of their Korean holdings.

"There is a warmth and humanity in Korean art," says Robin Crighton, keeper of applied art at the Fitzwilliam, "which compares favourably with the search for a

classical perfection of form of the Chinese and the often eccentric, deliberate informality of the Japanese."

The Fitzwilliam collection is one of the best of its kind in Europe. The strength of the collection is in Korea's distinctive celadon pottery, made during the Koryo dynasty (AD918-1392), which has a luminous blue-green colour that glows in the new cases.

The collection was assembled mainly by a private collector, Godfrey Gompertz, who first went to Korea in 1927 when he was working for the Shell oil company

in Japan, became enchanted by the country, and returned frequently.

In 1964 he agreed to bequeath his collection, and the related library, to the Fitzwilliam, and in 1984 he made an outright gift of it. The gallery was financed by Hyundai, the Korean multinational.

Experts agree that Korea's artistic achievements should be better known. They have tended to be overshadowed by those of China, from which the Koreans received many influences, and of Japan, which was itself influenced at one time by Korea.

Korean pottery has its own charm, however, often derived from its slightly irregular, asymmetrical shapes. The technique developed there of inlaying pottery with black and white slip, and the designs of birds, trees, flowers and clouds created for it by Korean potters, are unique.

At the Victoria & Albert, a new Korean gallery is due to open in December 1992. The gallery will have £430,000 in sponsorship from Samsung, the Korean electronics company, and is to be lent some pieces by the National Museum of Korea in Seoul.

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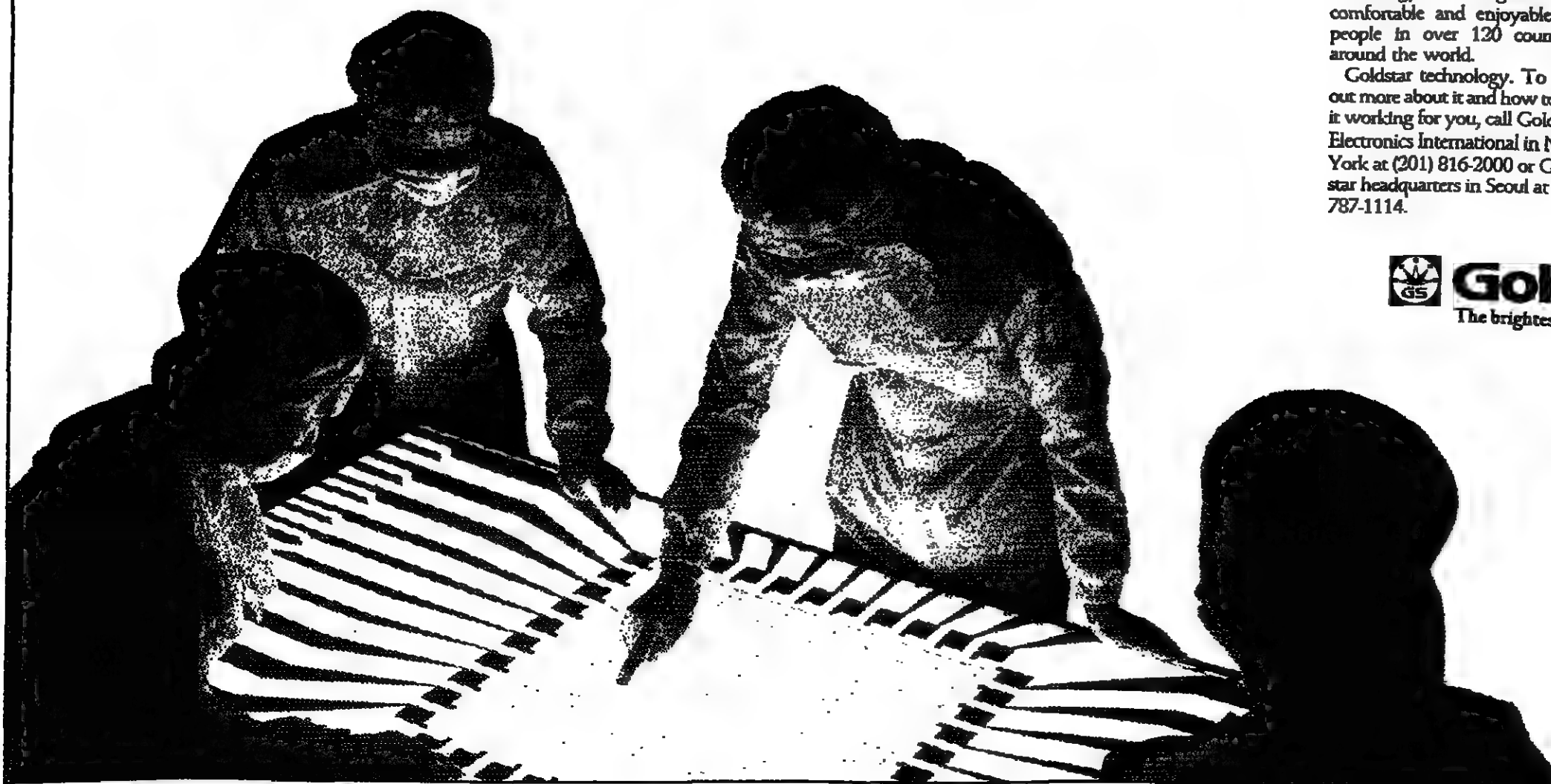
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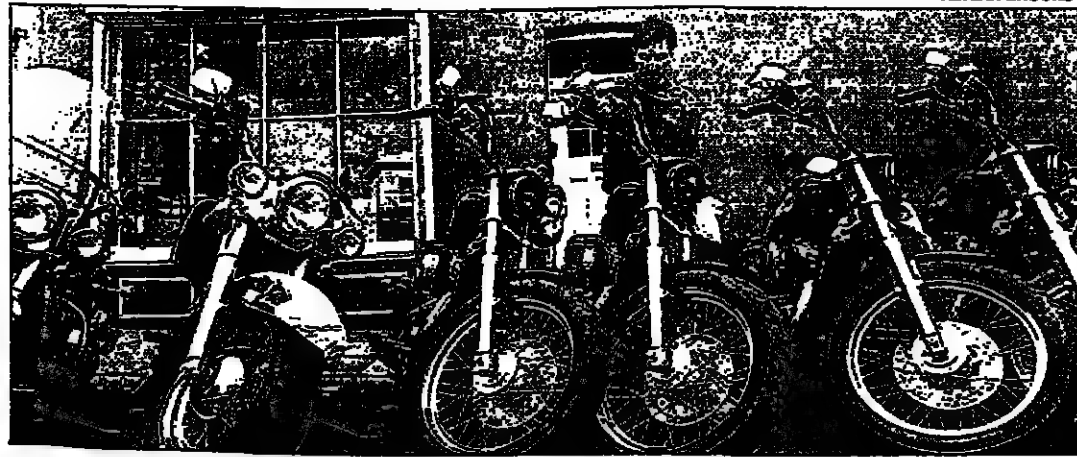
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The mild bunch

From the moment Marlon Brando sat astride his roaring Triumph nearly four decades ago in *The Wild One*, rebellion has been the theme for motorcycling.

Bikers, as they have become commonly known, were supposed to wear leathers, get covered in oil and ride on two wheels instead of four because they were the anarchists of the road.

Nobody could set the tone better than the brooding Brando. In the 1954 film he terrorised a small mid-West American town from the seat of his Triumph Bonneville in concert with his gang of bikers.

In 1969, the legend was cast in the aluminium and steel of the Harley-Davidson. Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper starred in *Easy Rider*, the definitive motorcycling movie, which finally made the stereotype of the biker a high-speed villain in leather.

Once regarded as social outcasts and rebels, motorcyclists have now ridden well down the road to respectability, Kevin Eason reports

The image could not be further from the truth of today. Brando's Triumph was used for violence. Tish Black is the softer face of modern motorcycling in Britain.

Ms Black, a 33-year-old Canadian, has been working in London as a hairdresser, regularly commuting between her base in King's Road, Chelsea, and private clients.

However, travelling through city traffic to get to her distinguished clients proved impossible, particularly in the rush hour when time was at a premium. The answer was to buy a Triumph Bonneville, one of the great names of British superbikes, which is cheap to run and easy to park.

Ms Black says: "I have always loved motorbikes but I realised

that running a car in a big city was going to be difficult. I know heads turn when I appear in my leathers but that is part of the appeal of the motorcycle."

Cost is also important to Ms Black and thousands of city workers who are discovering the virtues of motorcycling. She says parking a car could cost as much as £15 a day, while running her Bonneville costs just £3 a week in fuel.

"The motorbike is under-rated as a form of city transport," she says. "You can get where you want quickly and cheaply and these days the image of the motorcyclist has changed from the nasty greaser to people exercising good sense over private transport."

The rehabilitation of the motorcycle means that big, high-



Easy riders: famous names from the past, such as Harley-Davidson, are now in vogue (left), while Tish Black (above) opts for a Triumph

telephone number offering help and advice to new motorcyclists, has been almost "overwhelmed" by calls, he says.

British Bike Magazine, which runs *BikeLine*, conducted a survey of its readers to discover the profile of the average biker and was surprised by the results.

They were 39 years old, eight out of ten were professionals, or skilled workers, and a quarter earned more than £20,000 a year. More than half had been riding more than 20 years and many were prepared to spend a lot of money.

Rebekka Smith, the magazine's publisher, says: "Most of our readers have gone from being bike-mad teenagers to bike-mad professionals, but they are no Hell's Angels. They are spending a lot on their machines, up to £15,000 for some high performance bikes. This should shatter the myth that people who ride motorcycles are either outlaws or eccentrics."

Although sales of motorcycles are down by about a quarter this year in line with the depression in high street sales, there are definite signs that the decline is slower among fashionable bikes.

Dennis Bates, of the Motor Cycle Association of Great Britain, says: "Biking is becoming enormously popular and many motorcyclists want a fashion accessory, as much as an easy form of transport."

British *BikeLine*, a free phone

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Now John Bloor, a self-made millionaire, has breathed new life into Triumph at a high-tech factory on an industrial estate in Hinckley, Leicestershire, where the latest Japanese and German machinery produces distinctly British machines.

The first to appear is the Triumph Trophy, a water-cooled, in-line, four-cylinder bike of 1,200 cc, which attacks the big bike market head on. It is a £5,000 British thoroughbred that has attracted glowing critical acclaim from the technical press.

One stormy weekend I tried out the Trophy through the Lake District's narrow lanes and along the motorcyclist's dream road between Moffat and Edinburgh. The bike handles superbly, 529bhp of machinery that no sudden blast of wind howling across the moors could disturb. With a rear tyre resembling a lawn roller, road-holding is exemplary, braking positive and firm and suspension likewise. Handling at crawling speeds was unexpectedly docile so well is the machine balanced.

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Racing ahead: the new model though the torque on this superb engine is such that I found top gear not always obvious. Unless I was deliberately counting, there was much too-stubbing to engage a non-existent seventh gear.

The high, unadjustable foot rests leave long-legged chaps flailing and with an impression of riding a horse, rather than a pedigree motorcycle, although in the saddle the riding position was very comfortable.

● *Triumph Trophy 1200. Cost: £5,000. Engine: in-line, four-cylinder, 1154 cc. Top speed: 152 mph. Fuel consumption: 40 mpg. Triumph Motorcycles Ltd, Doves Industrial Estate, Hinckley, Leicestershire LE10 3BS*

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Autobike, "Signature" July/August 1991.

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Thomas Price, "Daily Telegraph" June 8th 1991.

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Charles Earl of March, talking to "Express" May/June 1991.

"It was easily the fastest motorcycle I've ridden in five years of road and track testing."

Rupert Paul, Editor "Performance Bikes" on the Bimota YBR Superbike racer December 1990

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Roland Brown, "Bike" September 1990

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An answer to rain delays on centre court

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE frustrations of spectators huddling beneath umbrellas at Wimbledon yesterday, not to mention those of countless television viewers, might have been avoided had the centre court been equipped with a moveable roof. However, such a device would also have required the most advanced technology for any sports stadium in Europe.

The Times yesterday asked Ove Arup, the consulting engineering company, to design a roof suitable for the 21st century to ensure that spectators remained dry and that tennis could be played in comfort. Arup, who were the engineering consultants for Stansted Airport, the New Mount Stand at Lord's and also the new stadium in Bari, where England met Italy in their third place play-off match in football's World Cup finals, knew that the existing structure of the centre court would not support a sliding roof, similar to the one at

Flinders Park, Melbourne, which houses the Australian Open championships.

Chris Wise, an engineer/designer, therefore proposed erecting eight guide masts round the centre court and similar poles round any other courts that the All England Club might want to cover. Whenever rain threatened, a series of fans, like venetian blinds, which would be suspended from the masts, would be opened by electrically driven motors to spread over the playing area. This operation would take less than 15 minutes, allowing tennis to continue.

Under this scheme, the present roof to the centre court and also the pillars, which interfere with the view of the spectators, could be removed. Because the new roof of 100 metres by 100 metres would be suspended and also retractable, air could circulate freely round the stadium and the grass could continue to grow.

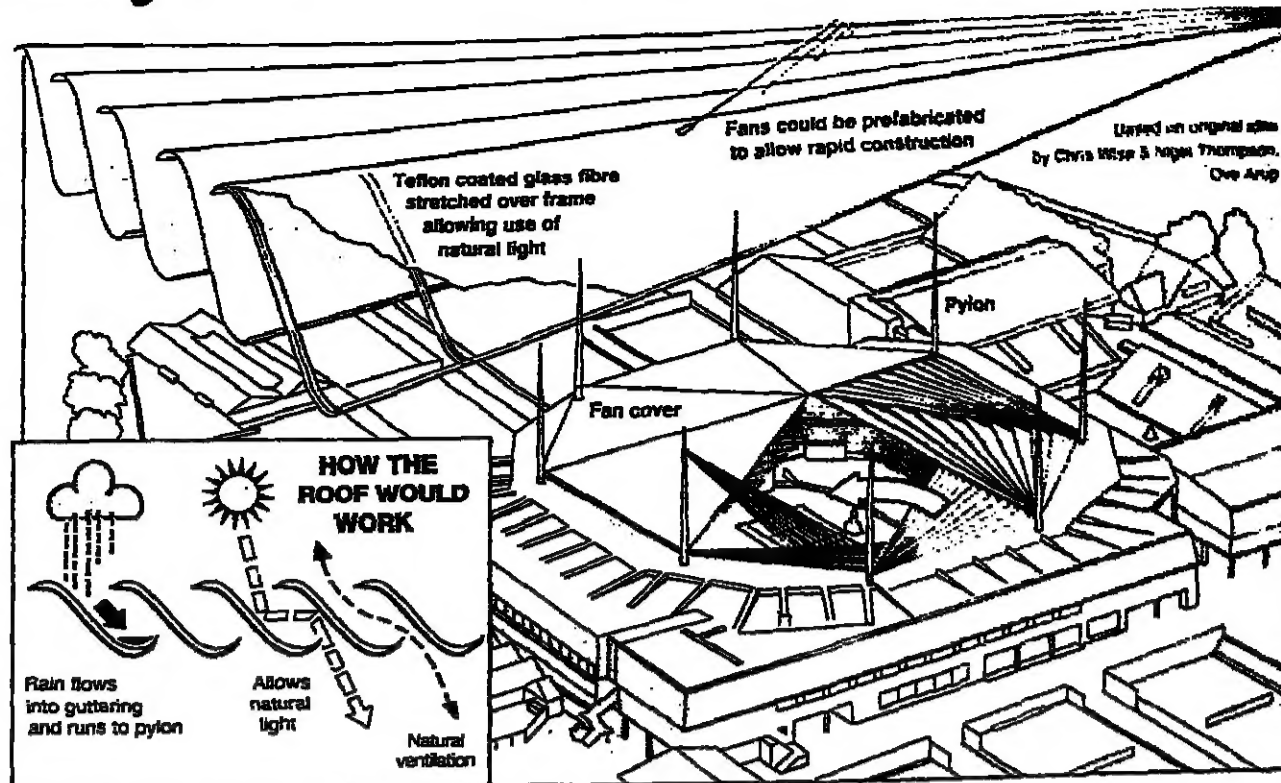
The estimated cost, £10 million, for the centre court would be almost exactly the projected profit from the 1991 Championships, which will instead go to the Lawn Tennis Association for the benefit of the sport in Britain. Nigel Thompson, a director of Ove Arup, described the concept as "very exciting", as did Gerant John, the chief architect to the Sports Council.

John said: "Technically, it would be feasible to cover temporarily all 40 acres of the All England Club with a number of retractable roofs." One single span covering all the grounds would not be possible because the grass would not be able to grow. He added: "If the All England Club was interested, it would have to get some talented people to look at the possibilities, so that the design was both innovative and practical and be worthy of an international event of this calibre." Flushing Meadow, the venue of the United States

Open tennis championships, is about to build some new courts and Gino Rossini, the chief executive of the architectural company that is designing them, eventually rejected installing moveable roofs.

He said: "The number of rainy days we have in New York are fewer than you have in Britain. The cost was also prohibitive for an event lasting only two weeks. However, Wimbledon would benefit because it seems to be constantly inundated with bad weather and this could justify the cost. It would be feasible."

A spokeswoman for the All England Club said the possibility was examined several years ago. "The main objection is that it would completely and utterly change the nature of the event. In addition, you could not use any machinery that gives off gases, like generators and vehicles, under the roofs. The noise would also be a problem because it would rebound from the roofs."



New look: Ove Arup's futuristic design for a modern, moveable roof to cover the centre court at Wimbledon

American rebel makes low-key entry to Wimbledon

Angelic Agassi's return is cut short by clouds

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

ALL Andre Agassi needed on centre court yesterday was wings. Dressed all in white, from his headband to his tennis shoes, he looked thoroughly angelic. In fact, he looked more than angelic. He looked like a real, old-fashioned tennis hero, headband, mane and a touch of street urchin excepted.

For a moment or two, before the rain ended the fun for the day, with he and Grant Connell all-square at 4-6, 6-1, 1-1, Agassi played, if not heroically, then quite decently. He certainly behaved impeccably, timing his bow to the royal box rather better than some of his groundstrokes initially, but awarding Connell a point when he slid into the net in the middle of the first set.

It was a vital point too, because he dropped his service soon after, but he won over the crowd, who had reacted to his appearance with the due caution of the British in the face of the unknown. In the royal box, Ted Dexter and

Graham Gooch must have been impressed, with both the wit and the gesture.

Most of the theatricals were confined to the skies, which prefaced Agassi's long-awaited return with thunder and lightning and then threw down another bucket of rain just as the centre court crowd had gathered to witness the unveiling. The delay, the second of the day, postponed his entrance for a further hour.

Seriously, it was not worth the wait. Technically, it was fascinating. The American took a set to understand the basics of grass-court play. Not surprisingly, because, at all accounts, he has not given over his heart and soul to practice in the last few weeks. Connell must have worried him too, not so much for his tennis, which was neat and

tidy, but because he is not dissimilar to Henri Leconte, who frightened Agassi off on his last appearance at Wimbledon in 1987.

Connell does not have the same flair as the Frenchman, but he had enough of something to beat Lendl at Queen's two weeks ago and had too much for Agassi in the beginning. The Canadian, with a blue band across his shirt, was the more colourful, and even borrowed from the Agassian repertoire, hitting one reverse shot between his legs. It lost him the point and brought a look of appreciation, verging on envy, from the real showman, who was struggling to find his feet.

Despite the heavy conditions, the ball was on to Agassi faster than a natural clay-courtier would expect, and volleying was still a foreign art. By the time he had made the adjustment, the first set was gone.

Agassi learns fast, however, and, by early in the second set, he had found the range. His returns scorched the shoelaces of Connell's blue and white trainers and he broke in the second and fourth games to win his first set on grass and level the match. Then the rain came, giving Connell a chance to regroup.

Stefan Edberg's opening match has been the symbol of Wimbledon 1991. It should have begun on Monday, started on Tuesday and was finished yesterday afternoon at 2.44pm, three sets and nearly 47 hours later. It gave the defending champion a chance to indulge his genius for the understatement. "On the third day of rain," he said with biblical intonation, "it gets a little frustrating. But you just have to laugh."

Rosset is the tennis equivalent of the world heavyweight boxing champion, Primo Carnener, who was nicknamed the Ambling Alp. He is 6ft 5in, comes from Geneva and has a service like an express. What follows, though, is more good train than InterCity and, as the Wimbledon champion is quicker of eye and feet than most, Rosset spent much of his time in a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 defeat peering into a very dark tunnel.

Only 52 matches out of a possible 256 had been completed when rain ended play for the day again yesterday, the worst start to the Championships on record.

HBO ready to run up a white flag

WIMBLEDON officials are not the only ones who have to perform a juggling act with the schedules to cope with the rain. Those trying to put together television coverage of Wimbledon have also suffered problems.

"There comes a point when you throw your hands up and say you quit," Ross Greenburg, the executive producer of Home Box Office's Wimbledon coverage, said. "Maybe we will have to have a white flag suspended from the complex."



On target: Merry, of Hertfordshire, watched by his captain, Surridge, ensures victory in a 'bowl-out' yesterday

Derbyshire lose in 'bowl-out'

By RICHARD STREITON

BISHOP'S STORTFORD (Derbyshire won toss): Match abandoned. Hertfordshire beat Derbyshire by two hits to one in a bowling contest

HERTFORDSHIRE, the Minor County champions, eliminated Derbyshire from the NatWest Trophy yesterday in the first senior match in England decided by five bowlers from each side bowling at unguarded stumps. Though many consider it tantamount to a lottery, this was the method provided for by the regulations after rain left the ground soaked for the second successive day.

A couple of hours later, Surrey avoided a similar fate when they defeated Oxfordshire 3-2 at the Oval.

At Bishop's Stortford, each bowler was allowed to deliver two balls. Derbyshire managed only one hit, at their ninth attempt. Mortensen, Warner, Griffith and Base all failed with both attempts. Goldsmith, their final bowler, hit the wicket with his first ball and missed with his second.

Hertfordshire began with three former Middlesex bowlers. Needham succeeded with his first ball and missed with his second. Carr then missed

with both his attempts. Merry, the third bowler, missed with his first ball before knocking back the middle stump with his second. Hertfordshire, therefore, secured victory with four balls to spare, without Harris and Surridge needing to bowl.

The competition lasted barely 15 minutes, supervised by Alan Whitehead and Brian Harrison, the umpires, standing in their usual position with the wicketkeepers the only other players involved.

Surridge, the Hertfordshire captain, a former Cambridge University and Gloucestershire player, admitted: "If we had won a proper game we would have been celebrating all night. As it is this is a hollow way to win."

Kim Barnett, the Derbyshire captain, said that even if his side had won, he would still believe that the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) needed to amend the regulations and find some other way of settling rain-disrupted games. "I am concerned about what is an unfair system. To start with, I think three days should be set aside for these important fixtures to minimise the chances of interference by the weather." This is the first summer only two days have been set aside for

REVISED DRAW

NATWEST TROPHY: Second round: Gloucestershire v Nottinghamshire (at Bristol); Hampshire v Lancashire (at Southampton); Northamptonshire v Leicestershire (at Northampton); Somerset v Middlesex (at Taunton); Surrey v Kent (at the Oval); Sussex v Essex (at Hove); Warwickshire v Hertfordshire (at Edgbaston); Worcestershire v Glamorgan (at Worcester). Matches to be played on July 11.

NatWest ties, and follows from switching the starting days for championship fixtures to Tuesday and Fridays.

Barnett also thought that all matches with minor county teams should be played at the headquarters grounds of the first-class counties, whose covering facilities, inevitably, were more adequate. "This is no reflection on the ground-staff here, who did their best," he said.

As torrential thunderstorms broke regularly during the day, the umpires and captains held lengthy discussions about what could be done, with TCCB rung several times for guidance. The board is understood to have been desperate for the match to be settled by the toss of a coin, which was permissible if no alternative could be found. The last important match

settled by a toss was in 1983, when Middlesex beat Gloucestershire in a Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final.

Unsuccessful inquiries were made yesterday into whether the fixture could be switched to Chelmsford, the nearest first-class ground, or some other local club ground.

Barnett was against holding the competition indoors because, with four bowlers more than 6ft tall, he feared too many balls would go over the stumps. For this reason, Derbyshire did not use Malcolm, the England fast bowler, when the competition did take place outdoors. Barnett preferred to toss a coin if the weather did not allow them to bowl outside.

Surridge did not mind what method was agreed. The TCCB ruled, however, that the bowling competition had to take place if it was feasible, and both captains agreed to go ahead on the slippery grass between storms.

It was at 2pm when the umpires finally decided that any attempt to play a match, even with a reduced number of overs, had to be ruled out. Another two-and-a-quarter hours passed before the competition actually got under way as further discussions followed.

Derby's sales may fall through

By IAN RORS

THE proposed transfers of Dean Saunders and Mark Wright away from Derby County are now thought to be in danger of collapsing.

Derby, who announced an intention to sell the pair following their relegation to the second division, have rejected the one firm bid they received for each player.

Liverpool, who have offered £1.4 million for Wright, the England international centre half, were informed that their bid was unacceptable. Everton were also told that their £2.2 million bid for Saunders, the Welsh international forward, fell well short of County's valuation.

Negotiations have now reached something of an impasse as both clubs are reluctant to increase their offers as they do not face any direct competition for either player.

With Derby demanding £3 million for Saunders and £2.5 million for Wright, there is now a possibility that both men will still be at the Baseball Ground when the new season opens in late August.

Paul Gascoigne's on-off move to Lazio will be resolved within the next 24 hours, according to Mel Stein his adviser.

Representatives of the Italian club are in London for talks with Tottenham Hotspur's managing director, Terry Venables, and Stein.

Venables, who has persuaded Vinny Samways to tie himself to Tottenham until 1996, is said to have met Gascoigne this week to discuss the possibility of the injured England player extending his two-year White Hart Lane contract. But Nat Solomon, the chairman of Tottenham plc, suggested that Gascoigne is attracted by the prospect of financial security attached to a move to Rome.

Welsh go through to finals

WALES reached all four finals and England three when the British women's individual bowls championships began in Belfast yesterday (Gordon Allan writes). Ireland took the remaining place, while Scotland came away empty-handed.

Barbara Till, a grandmother from Portsmouth, plays Eileen Thomas, of Port Talbot, in the singles today. Till used long jacks to profitable effect in beating Margaret Ritchie, of Walsley, 25-17, and Thomas scored four shots on the decisive end to repulse a comeback by Marie Barber, of Dublin, 25-18.

RESULTS: Singles semi-finals: E Thomas (Wales) 25, M Barber (Ire) 18; B Till (Eng) 25, M Ritchie (Scot) 17. Pairs: semi-finals: M Cullen (Scot) 13, S Highcock (Eng) 15; J Marshall (Ire) 8, A Hayward, J Ward, S Dwyer (Wales) 22; N Montgomery, A Ward, P Page (Eng) 30, M McAnulty, I Pratt, H Wyle (Scot) 6. Four: semi-finals: M Thomas, P Barber, M Taylor, S MacKinnon, D Barr (Scot) 18, S Turner, J Gurn, C Walters, F MacKinnon (Eng) 24; N Montgomery, F Chestnut, A Elliott, J Marshall (Ire) 16.

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